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POST

Nissim: No devaluation*

Crucial talks on strike actions

By AVI TEMKIN
and JEFF BLACK

Tonight's meeting between Treasury officials and Histadrut representatives will determine whether the 24-hour general strike held Sunday was only the first in a series of labour actions concerning public-sector wages.

The finance minister went out of his way yesterday to dispel rumours of an impending devaluation, which have sent shock waves through the capital market. "Those speculators who believe there is going to be a devaluation of the shekel will be disappointed," Nissim said at the end of a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee.

Haim Haberfeld, the Histadrut Trade Union Department head, said yesterday that the Histadrut's negotiating team will decide after tonight's meeting whether there is sufficient basis to continue the negotiations.

He declined to comment on a reported Treasury proposal under which public-sector workers would get a pay rise in exchange for signing a two-year wage agreement. Haberfeld said he had not received any details concerning this proposal.

The Treasury will not make any concrete proposal to the union representatives when they meet tonight with Finance Minister Nissim. Treasury officials said yesterday. Should the labour federation agree to a two-year collective wage agreement, in return the minister would consider wage increases, but he would not put forward any figures, the Treasury officials said.

The meeting was called by Nissim, they said, to see whether some principles would be acceptable to both parties. "Once we agree on the principle of a two-year accord, we will be ready to discuss numbers," the officials said.

When Histadrut representatives called the ministry to inquire about the proposed offer, they were told such a proposal indeed exists, but that no details could be given.

The Treasury officials said yesterday the ministry has repeatedly said that for a long-term agreement they will be willing to show greater flexibility. "In April 1988 we might be on the eve of an election campaign, and we have much to gain from the fact that a signed labour agreement could then be in force," they said.

No-confidence motions fail

4 Alignment MKs refuse to be absent

By DVORAH GETZLER
and ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporters

Four Alignment MKs yesterday refused to head the call of their faction chairman, Rafi Eidi, to absent themselves during yesterday's vote of no-confidence in the government. One, Haim Ramon, voted no-confidence in the government. A second, Ephraim Shalom, abstained. Aharon Nahmias and Jacques Amir voted for the government. But all five no-confidence motions were roundly defeated.

The Likud mobilized almost all of its members including a number of ministers. But Prime Minister Shamir, whose vote of support last week for a bill that would have granted clemency to the members of the Jewish terror underground sparked yesterday's no-confidence motions, entered the chamber only as the votes were being called.

Meanwhile, the coalition executive yesterday held its most raucous meeting since the national unity coalition was set up in 1984.

Bellows reverberated along the corridor of the Knesset's fifth floor, despite the door of the meeting room being shut tight.

The Alignment's normally calm and courteous Edna Solodar shrieked at Likud faction co-chairman Haim Kaufman: "I've heard enough of your bull. You have never planted a tree in your life."

This was after Kaufman accused the Alignment of "liquidating the moshavim," a charge which Alignment Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsaur threw back at Kaufman, together with the shout: "What you are doing is verbal thuggery."

The coalition executive was in pandemonium after the Alignment decided to ask its MKs to absent

themselves from the vote on the motions of no-confidence.

The Alignment faction executive took this drastic decision vis-à-vis the Likud after a noisy, agitated heart-searching session in which Ramon aggressively demanded the right to vote against the government. He got little support for his demand, even though he argued that "the coalition fell to pieces long ago but the Alignment just hasn't woken up to the fact."

Ramon's call did not convince Labour's Shevah Weiss, who said: "I don't see why I should be a goody-goody and behave myself while some other fellow seeks popularity by a demonstrative protest."

Ora Namir said: "When Prime Minister Shamir voted for clemency last week, he was just spitting in our faces."

Eidi said: "We have to make up our minds in the next two or three weeks whether the Alignment is staying in the coalition or walking out. We cannot carry on like this any longer."

During the plenum vote, the right and left traded insults over the underground Etzel and Lehi roots of Shamir and some of his colleagues.

Shinui leader Amnon Rubinstein, proposing his motion of no-confidence, urged the Alignment at least to abstain.

How, he asked, could Shamir unite the government, when he could not even vote as that government, through its justice minister, had decreed?

And for Rubinstein, Mattityahu Peled (Progressive List for Peace), Tzvi Toubi (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality), Yossi Sarid (CRM), and Elazar Granot (Mapam), the constitutional issue of

(Continued on Page 9)

Soviets hint they may replace visitors with more senior men

Not seen here as a thaw



Members of the Soviet consular delegation arrive at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem yesterday. (Zaken/Media)

Soviet official downplays significance of group

By ANDY COURT

For The Jerusalem Post
People tuning in to Army Radio this morning may catch the leader of the first Soviet diplomatic group to visit the country in 20 years good-naturedly stumbling over the Hebrew words, "Boker tov Yisrael" (Good morning, Israel).

But the rest of the Soviet official's message is less encouraging: the group has only limited, technical responsibilities and will hold no political talks. The visit should by no means be regarded as a step towards re-establishing diplomatic relations that were broken off after the 1967 war, he said.

"We are here to make an inventory of Soviet property here and to serve Soviet citizens permanently living in Israel, and that's all," said Yevgeny Antipov, head of the eight-member consular delegation.

The genial, casually dressed official spoke to reporters on the steps of the Russian Orthodox Church's headquarters in Jerusalem's Russian Compound. The delegation members and church officials met for over three hours there yesterday afternoon.

"Don't interpret this as a step towards establishing diplomatic or consular relations because, as we have said before and we're saying now, to establish consular or diplomatic relations, the normalization of the whole atmosphere in the Middle East should be achieved," Antipov said.

To ascribe any larger role to the Soviet group other than the two purposes they have defined would be to enter "the region of fantasy," he said.

The vehicle for resolving the Middle East conflict should be an international peace conference involving all interested parties, and particularly all permanent members of the UN Security Council, he added.

Asked whether the individual parties concerned would be bound by the international conference's decisions or if they would have some kind of veto power, Antipov responded, "I believe it's too early to speak about it, but certainly if something is imposed on the countries it won't last long. The solution lies in compromise and good will from all participants in the conference."

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By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office yesterday cautioned against exaggerating the significance of the Soviet consular delegation's visit to Israel, which began in secret on Sunday evening.

But senior sources last night noted that "there have been hints from the Soviets that they might replace the current delegation with a team of more senior officials in a few months' time." The sources implied that in such an event, the current visit could signal the beginning of a renewed, permanent Soviet diplomatic presence in Israel.

Foreign Minister Peres went out of his way to stress the low level of the Soviet visitors, while Foreign Ministry sources said that they did not regard the visit as "part of a [possible] thaw in relations between the two countries. One should not exaggerate their importance. They are a consular delegation."

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office also stressed the low level of the Soviet officials, but said: "Let's wait and see what they want and do here, and what their mandate is."

The eight-man delegation, headed by the deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's consular directorate, Yevgeny Antipov, is scheduled to meet with medium and low-level Foreign Ministry officials this morning. The Israelis hope "to hear what it is the Soviets have in mind," Foreign Ministry officials said.

Peres indicated that he would meet with the delegation if it requested a meeting, but Foreign Ministry officials stressed that for the time being no "political" meet-

ings are contemplated for the visitors.

Finnish Ambassador Osmo Vainola, after meeting the Soviet officials, visited the Foreign Ministry yesterday to set up today's meetings. Finland represents the Soviet Union's interests in Israel. At all their meetings here the Soviets will be accompanied by a Finnish diplomat.

The Soviets are understood to be here to look into problems concerning Soviet-owned properties, mostly ecclesiastical, and matters concerning Soviet passport-holders in Israel.

Some Soviet Jews may arrive in Israel this week via Romania, and not via Vienna as has been the case until now. This was reported last night by Israel Radio in its midnight newscast. According to the radio, several families of refugees who had been granted exit visas would be arriving on a direct flight from Bucharest.

The Soviets have been issued 90-day visas, but it is unclear how long they will stay in the country. They are staying in the Tel Aviv Hilton.

It is also unclear if Israel intends to ask the Soviets for visas for an Israeli consular delegation to visit the Soviet Union. Though there is no Israeli-Soviet agreement to this effect, Israel has always declared that it insists on reciprocity concerning the consular delegation's visit. Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday that Israel has not decided when such a reciprocal visit may take place, but added: "We expect the Soviets to issue us visas if we request them."

Among the Soviet officials are (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Hebrew broadcasts not jammed

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Soviet Union yesterday stopped jamming Hebrew-language broadcasts for Kol-Yisrael, a move that coincided with the visit here of the Soviet consular delegation.

But Russian, Georgian and Bukharan broadcasts were still being interfered with, and it was too early to tell whether the non-jamming was an isolated incident or reflected a new policy. Victor Grajewski, director of radio's external services said last night.

In the past, broadcasts have occasionally been freed of jamming for three or four days, Grajewski noted.

Sovietologist Mikhail Agursky noted that since 1972 the Russians have deliberately jammed broadcasts from Israel. The absence of disruptions, if it continues, could indeed be seen in the framework of a new Soviet policy, he believed.

Earlier this year the Soviet authorities reversed their long-standing policy by ceasing to jam Voice of America and BBC broadcasts.

Six die in head-on collision

By BRADLEY BURSTON

ASHKELON. — A head-on collision early yesterday between an overloaded taxi and a small truck left six people dead and seven injured, four seriously. Among the casualties were two infants, one of whom died in the crash. The other was hospitalized for emergency brain surgery.

The force of the crash was such that the truck was ripped into three parts, the forward third continuing to roll 100 metres from the scene of the crash. The accident occurred near the Hodiya junction, 10 kilometres north-west of Ashkelon, when a pickup truck driving from Ramle apparently swerved into the opposite lane on the narrow highway. The truck then collided with a taxi from Rafah. The taxi was carrying 10 passengers, two over the legal maximum.

The accident brings to 14 the number of people who have died in road accidents in the last five days.

Also killed yesterday was Rafael Nuri, 55, after his car was involved in a crash with a van in Bat Yam, and a man was killed in Western Galilee in an accident. He was later identified as a visitor from Kuwait aged 18. Three other people were hurt.

Killed in the Hodiya crash were the driver of the truck, Foad Al-Ubra, 23, of Ramle, and his 13-year-old brother, Nabil, who had been seated in the back of the truck.

Also killed were the driver of the taxi, Div Mahmoud Yunis, 40, a former policeman, and three passengers, Zahya Abu-Sha'ib, 54, Falah Fa'ni, 32, and the as yet unidentified infant.

A preliminary police investigation indicated that the crash stemmed from wrongly aligned rear wheels on the truck, apparently causing the vehicle to veer into the opposite lane. Lahish Region Police Traffic Bureau chief Menashe Ezra emphasized that although the Castina-Ashkelon road is relatively narrow and winding, yesterday's accident occurred on a straight section with good visibility.

EEC to resume its contacts with Syria

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — Claiming that the isolation of Syria was harming efforts to find peace in the Middle East, the European Economic Community yesterday decided to resume high-level contacts with the government of President Assad.

In the face of continuing British reluctance, the EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Copenhagen, withdrew the ban on high-level contacts imposed last November. The ban arose because Syrian officials were accused of involvement in a plot to blow up an El Al plane at Heathrow Airport in April 1986.

While Britain did not support the resumption of contacts, it did not oppose the move, since it knew that its hard line on Syria was opposed by all its EEC partners.

Nevertheless, Britain is by no means ready to change its stance, since it does not believe Syria has yet done enough to distance itself from terrorism.

Although the EEC has now decided to resume high-level contacts with Damascus, it will continue other sanctions, including the sus-

pension of aid and a ban on all arms sales to Syria.

In choosing not to oppose yesterday's decision, Britain took note of the fact that Syria had closed the Damascus offices of terror leader Abu Nidal.

"The fact remains, however, that intelligence officers who had a role in the [El Al] affair are still in their positions, and have not been disciplined," a Whitehall source told The Jerusalem Post.

The source named Gen. Mohammed el-Khouli, the Syrian air force intelligence chief, as one such official who played a prominent role in the bombing attempt but has not been punished for doing so.

The Copenhagen decision means that the EEC president is free to travel to Damascus for talks or to invite Syrian officials to an EEC venue.

But sources told The Post that Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the new EEC president, is not planning to do either in the near future.

In mark contrast to his predecessor, Belgium's Leo Tindemans, Jen-

(Continued on Page 9)

Bin-Nun next IAF chief

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Aluf Avihu Bin-Nun, one of the staunchest opponents of the Lavi project, has been named the Air Force's next commander, it was announced yesterday.

Bin-Nun, who now heads the IDF's Planning Branch, is to replace Aluf Amos Lapidot on September 22. His successor will be Tat-Aluf Danny Yatom who will be promoted to the rank of aluf. Chief of General Staff Rav-Aluf Dan Shomron announced the appointments at a meeting of the army's top brass.

Bin-Nun commanded a Mystere unit in the 1967 war, downed Soviet-made aircraft during the War of Attrition and later commanded a major air base in the north.

Yatom was previously a military aide to then-defence minister Moshe Arens. He later commanded a division in the eastern front and has recently studied at the Tel Aviv University.

Navon hits Civil Guard anti-Arab violence

By BERNARD JOSEPHS

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Education Minister Navon last night urged an end to violence by young Civil Guard volunteers against Arabs. But police sources appeared reluctant to back his call for a major education campaign to prevent such incidents.

The ministers were responding to a report from the head of the United Kibbutz Movement's Yigal Allon Labour College that complaints of such attacks were increasing.

Hanna Kochavi, whose college is part of the UKM's Eilat educational centre near Tel Aviv, said that youth's using their membership of the Civil Guard as a "cover" had forced their way into the homes of Arabs late at night, ordered the residents to stand against a wall,

threatened them with firearms and, on occasion, beat them.

Kochavi, who filed a complaint with Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, added that some young Civil Guard volunteers had reportedly identified themselves as supporters of Kach and said their service and the attacks on Arabs were part of their "duty" towards the extreme anti-Arab movement.

"I believe in the importance of youth volunteers in the Civil Guard," said Kochavi. "But when it takes in frustrated and sadistic youths who operate under the cover of the law, then this must put in doubt whether such a youth policy is worthwhile."

Navon called for the establishment of a comprehensive education-

al programme, to be conducted together with the police, to teach young Civil Guard volunteers about the need to respect civil rights and Jewish-Arab equality under the law.

An Education Ministry source said last night that Kochavi's complaint was not the first of its kind to be received. "When young people join the Civil Guard it is not enough just us in this effort," he said.

However, in a reply to Kochavi's complaint, Civil Guard Commander Baruch Levy denied the need for a major educational programme as envisaged by Navon.

He said that, as in all large organizations, there were irregularities and these would be dealt with. He also expressed willingness to meet Kochavi to discuss the situation.

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BUSINESS AIRS	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
CHICAGO	20 22 24 26	Cloudy	
COPENHAGEN	12 24 26 28	Cloudy	
DUBLIN	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
FRANKFURT	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
GATEWAY	14 20 22 24	Cloudy	
HELSINKI	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
LONDON	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
LUXEMBOURG	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
MADRID	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
MONTREAL	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
NEW YORK	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
OSLO	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
PARIS	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
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ST. PAUL	12 20 22 24	Cloudy	
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	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	49	15-27	30
Golan	33	16-30	31
Nahariya	64	21-28	29
Safed	69	22-30	30
Haifa Port	32	20-34	35
Tiberias	32	20-34	35
Nazareth	—	—	30
Afula	40	18-31	32
Shomron	37	18-30	30
Tel Aviv	54	21-28	28
B-G Airport	47	19-30	30
Jericho	30	21-36	37
Gaza	64	21-28	28
Beer Sheva	44	16-32	32
Eilat	22	25-39	39

Journalists call strike

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The National Association of Journalists yesterday decided to call a general strike, starting Thursday at 4 a.m., following what it said was the refusal of the employers to negotiate a collective wage agreement.
The association said it does not want to strike, but maintains that the employers have been refusing to hold serious negotiations since March 17, and now they are not prepared to talk at all.
Any concern signing a collective wage agreement before Thursday can avoid a strike; but the association resolved that journalists returning to work would donate a sum from the salaries to colleagues still on strike.
The association maintains that during the past year the employers have benefited from increased earnings due to booming sales and stepped-up advertising revenue.

ADL chief dies

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, died yesterday. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cabled condolences to Perlmutter's widow, saying that the Jewish world had suffered a great loss.
"As a proud Jew, Perlmutter fought against all racism, particularly anti-Semitism," wrote Peres. "His role as national director of the ADL brought honour to the organization and to the entire Jewish people."

Bronfman in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (AP) — World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman arrived in Belgrade yesterday on a one day official visit — his first to this non-aligned Communist country.
Bronfman is scheduled to meet with President Lazar Mojsov, Foreign Minister Rado Dizardovic and representatives of Belgrade's Jewish Community.
He will discuss Jewish issues with Yugoslav officials specifically raising the question of diplomatic relations with Israel. WJC officials reported.

THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY in convention assembled in Jerusalem on the occasion of its FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY July 7-21, 1987

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The Cantors Assembly is deeply grateful to the Gila and Haim Wiener Foundation for the Advancement of Hazzanut for endowing its two Grand Concerts of Hazzanut, overwhelmingly received by the public in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and its Melave Malka to be held Saturday night, July 18, 1987, 8:30 p.m. at the Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem.

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Not content with meeting the needs of the present, they have endowed a school for training Hazzanim to serve coming generations of Jews in Israel, in America and in Canada.

May the Almighty grant them health and length of days and the ability and the will to continue their efforts for years to come.



HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Rabbinical Court: Two weeks to decide on divorce

Nakash wins temporary reprieve

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter
The Jerusalem Rabbinical Court yesterday gave William Nakash a temporary reprieve from his impending extradition to France by allowing him two weeks to decide whether he is willing to grant his wife a divorce.

Nakash's attorney, Roland Roth, told the court that his client cannot respond immediately to his wife's request because his on-again off-again extradition, as well as the continuing efforts to persuade French authorities to cancel their extradition request, had "confused" him.

The Nakash case, which has already elicited definitive Supreme Court rulings on the laws of extradition, continues to trailblaze into uncharted legal areas. The relations between the religious courts and secular authorities was at the focus of yesterday's hearing, in the form of an hitherto unresolved question:

Must the rabbinical court defer to the extradition order against Nakash signed by the justice minister last week and cancel its order barring Nakash from leaving the country.
This had been issued in order to resolve the pending divorce case which has been seen as a device to prevent his being deported.

Jerusalem District Attorney Yosef Ben-Or, representing the attorney-general, answered in the affirmative. He said that the rabbinical court, like its civilian counterparts, has no discretion in the matter. Deferring to the rabbinical terminology, Ben-Or said that the court must not "interfere in matters between kingdoms (*malhuyot*)."

Ben-Or said that the court order must be cancelled, just as a similar order issued by a Moslem religious court could not hold up a deportation order by the defence minister.

The court decided that because of the importance of preventing *agruv* (where a wife is unable to get a divorce because her husband cannot

be found or reached) it is allowing Nakash two weeks to consider his position.

Court judges Rabbi Ezra Batzi, Shilo Raphael and Maityahu Shrem told Ben-Or that once Nakash was extradited, the court would not be able to coerce Nakash into granting his wife a divorce. "The state will not finance a trip of the rabbinical court to France," said Raphael, while Batzi pointed to the considerable leeway which the court has in coercing a divorce, including sending a reluctant husband to solitary confinement. "Religious law even allows us to beat him until his soul perishes," he said.

Rina Nakash's attorney, Rabbi Simha Meron — formerly the chief administrator of the rabbinical courts — told the judges that they are not bound by the same legal interpretations as the secular courts. Referring to a previous High Court decision relating to the Nakash case, Meron said: "With all due respect to

the president of the Supreme Court, he was not precise about the correct legal situation" concerning the standing of rabbinical courts in this matter.

The Jerusalem Rabbinical Court strayed from its usual closed-door hearings due to the public's interest in the Nakash case. But it ordered the courtroom cleared when Rabbi Batzi inquired about the origin of Rina Nakash's pregnancy.

The deadline on Nakash's extradition is August 5. The Supreme Court, at the attorney general's request, may extend the deadline but is not bound to do so. "What will we tell the Supreme Court?" Ben-Or asked the religious judges yesterday. "That the reason preventing extradition is that Nakash does not want to be extradited?"

If, after the July 29 hearing, the rabbinical court does not rescind its order barring Nakash from leaving the country, the state may petition the High Court to cancel the order.

Shamir: Lavi must be produced

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Prime Minister Shamir yesterday came out in favour of the Lavi project and opposed suggestions by Defence Minister Rabin and Finance Minister Nissim to scuttle it.
Shamir, Rabin and Nissim met briefly on Sunday. In an interview yesterday, the prime minister said the plane must be produced. The economic difficulties involved in the Lavi's production must be solved, he added.
However, Shamir did not indicate how he thought the

project would be financed. Shamir's economic advisers Amos Rubin and Shmuel Slavin, assigned to look into the matter, were still awaiting the Israel Aircraft Industries' recommendations.

So far the IAI has distributed a few papers, but it is still discussing the matter with the IDF and the Defence Ministry.

Any plan will first have to win the Defence Ministry's approval before being forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office, a well-placed government source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Peres: North was scapegoat for everyone

Jerusalem Post Staff
Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that "Everyone involved in the Iran-Contra affair knew more than they admitted to knowing about the transfer of funds to the Contras, and attempted to lay the blame on Lt. Col. Oliver North." Speaking at Bar-Ilan University, Peres said: "The Americans turned to us for help on releasing hostages held in Iran, and after their help with the Ethiopian Jews, we were glad to be of assistance. 'We didn't do it for money; and any talk about funds via Israel to the Contras is nonsense.'"

In Nazareth, Prime Minister Shamir said that Israel's reputation in the U.S. was unimpaired by North's testimony before Senate investigators.

Israel's role in selling weapons to Iran was done "with the best intentions and with full cooperation with the U.S. authorities. I don't think there was anything done by Israel against the interests of the U.S.," Shamir reiterated.

Religious only in Bar-Ilan dorms

RAMAT GAN (Itim) — Only observant students are accommodated in the Bar-Ilan University dormitories, rector Michael Albeck said yesterday during a tour of the university by Foreign Minister Peres.

Journalists accompanying Peres had asked why Arab students do not live on campus. Albeck explained that only religious students lived in the dormitories so that Sabbath observance and kosher problems would not arise. Bar-Ilan is a religious university, but many Arab and non-religious Jewish students attend it.

Big maneuver in north

Large-scale maneuvers in the north were completed yesterday with the participation of the Air Force, artillery, infantry and tanks. Emphasis was placed on mountain warfare and the use of helicopters.

Defence Minister Rabin and Chief of General Staff Shomron observed the maneuvers. (Itim)

Aridor warned Begin in '81: No rash decisions on Lavi

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Former prime minister Menachem Begin was warned by three senior officials at a meeting in his office on May 29, 1981, to take no rash decisions about the future of the Lavi fighter, the Knesset State Control Committee was told yesterday.

Yair Horowitz, the director-general of the State Comptroller's Office, read to the committee minutes of the meeting where Begin got this warning from Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, his director-general Ezra Sadan, and Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zipori.

These three told Begin that a

proper economic check of the project had not yet been carried out, and most of its implications had not been studied.

According to the minutes of the meeting, Begin's answer was: "The time has come to stop talking — to be or not to be a la Hamlet, to take decisions, and to get busy implementing them forthwith."

The former Israel Air Force chief Aluf (Res.) David Ivri said at the meeting yesterday: "The chief of the general staff and I were both against building the Lavi but the then-defence minister Ezer Weizman overruled us."



Colombian Defence Minister Rafael Samudio Molina (right) at the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday, where he was received by Defence Minister Rabin (centre). Israel Air Force commander Aluf Amos Lapidot is at left. (IDF spokesman)

Palestinian activist must remain in Jerusalem

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Palestinian activist Faisal Hussein, who was released last week from three months' administrative detention, has been ordered to limit his movements to Jerusalem and to be home every night after sunset.

According to the six-month order signed by OC Central Command Amram Mitzna, Hussein is prohibited from going outside Jerusalem's city limits, and must be at his home every evening from one hour after sunset until sunrise. He must also report twice a week to the police station just inside the Old City's Jaffa Gate, and notify the authorities of any change in his address.

The order was given to Hussein on Sunday morning, but was made

retroactive to last Friday, the day after Hussein was released from detention. Hussein was under an identical restriction order for five years before his arrest.

He said yesterday that though he expected the order, he was surprised by the speed with which it came. "I said when I was released that I would continue my activities within the boundaries of the law. If this is the price I'm paying for that, then it appears they simply want me to shut up," he said.

The security forces believe Hussein is a top PLO organizer in the territories, and the man responsible for numerous demonstrations and strikes, including a recent hunger strike by Palestinian security prisoners.

SOVIETS

(Continued from Page One)
Gennady Plekhin, a consular directorate official who was one of two Soviet officials at the meeting with Israeli officials last August in Helsinki, and Alexei Chistyakov, of the Middle East Department, Israeli officials declined yesterday, in line with a Soviet request, to name the remaining Soviet visitors.

A State Department official characterized the talks as a "positive step."

A spokesman for the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre denounced the visit as "untimely, insulting and potentially dangerous" to Israel and to the cause of Soviet Jewry.

Computer programme vowelizes Arabic

Jerusalem Post Staff
A unique computer programme using vowelized Arabic script has been developed by the Education Ministry. The programme is de-

signed to teach Arabic language and culture in the country's schools.

In the last academic year an additional 3,000 Jewish pupils began studying Arabic.

Rudolf Kuznetsov, head of the visa section at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said invitations to Soviet Jews from their family abroad would be "taken into account like the others."

NRP asks Shas to stall new bill on conversions

Post Knesset Correspondent

The National Religious Party faction yesterday called upon the ultra-Orthodox Shas faction not to bring up a new private member's bill about conversions unless it has a certain majority for it.

Shas told Knesset Speaker Shimon Hillel on Sunday that it wants to bring up the amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Law next Wednesday. Under this proposal, all marriages, divorces and conversions abroad would require the approval of a rabbinical court in Israel, for the immigrants to be registered as Jews, under the Law of Return.

The NRP faction said that "demonstrative" moves are alien to the true spirit of the Jewish faith and verge upon sacrilege. Unofficially, however, NRP members conceded that they would be in an embarrassing position if Shas insisted on going ahead, because they would not want to vote against the proposal, even though they considered its introduction inadvisable.

PM continuing his offensive against Sharon

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Shamir yesterday maintained his offensive against his Herut colleague, Ariel Sharon, following his success Sunday night in blocking Sharon's attempt to appoint himself head of the party's hitherto non-existent political committee.

Speaking to Likud activists in Upper Nazareth, Shamir said that Herut "does not like people who want to take over the party."

Although he did not mention Sharon by name, Shamir said that "there are those with ambitions in the party, but what is important is what we actually do."

Inquiry into death of soccer star

The chief inspector of the Shipping Authority, Captain Rafael Spinnier, has been appointed to head the inquiry into the death of footballer Avi Ran, who was killed in a boat crash on Lake Kinneret on Saturday.

The head of the Kinneret Port in Tiberias, who was originally asked to head the investigation, asked to be excused because of a possible conflict of interest in the event that the port might be found guilty of negligence.

Avraham Danino, who drove the speedboat that collided with Avi Ran's motorized water cycle, helped the police reconstruct the accident yesterday before being released on bail of NIS 5,000. The police completed their inquiry and passed the material to the state attorney's office, which will decide whether to press charges. (Itim)

Petrol-bomb in Nablus

A petrol-bomb was thrown at a police jeep in central Nablus yesterday at 1 p.m. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Police and security forces closed off the area and conducted searches.

Doron survives Herut ouster bid

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
Likud Knesset faction co-chairwoman Sara Doron retained her position yesterday, despite attempts by two Herut MKs to secure her ouster.

Meir Cohen-Avidov and Yehoshua Matza had called for Doron's dismissal, following last week's failure of the Shas proposal on conversions in the Knesset. Doron voted against the measure.

Cohen-Avidov led the attack on Doron, who belongs to the Liberal wing. He said she should be dismissed from her faction post and from her committee membership, as punishment. "We were not put into the Knesset as individuals, and conscience doesn't come into our voting calculations," Cohen-Avidov said.

Doron, who defended her action spiritedly, said: "The Likud is not a Communist Party and we do not practice ideological collectivism.

The Liberals chose me as a co-leader of the faction, and if the Liberals wish to depose me I shall willingly step down. We have always had freedom of vote on issues of religion and conscience, and I made it clear, when this coalition was formed in 1984, that I would vote according to my conscience, even if my vote caused the downfall of the government."

Likud faction whip Matza said that Doron should resign of her own accord, since she had undermined her colleagues' stand.

Dan Meridor said that the Likud would not support the conversions proposal, and in any case it would not have won a majority vote, even if she had.

Co-chairman Haim Kaufman said: "There is no call to penalize Doron, but I would hope that next time such a measure comes up, she would vote for it."

Journalists to help retrieve confiscated Budapest photos

The Association of Foreign Journalists in Israel said yesterday that it would do all it could to defend the interests of photographer Andre Bruttman, whose pictures of a meeting in Budapest between Israeli leftists and members of the PLO have been confiscated by police here.

At a news conference in Tel Aviv it was announced that attorney Yoram Bar-Sela has been retained by the association to recover the pictures. Bar-Sela has asked the magistrates' court judge who signed an order instructing the police to arrest Bruttman and confiscate his photos to cancel his order.

Bruttman was arrested and questioned on his return from Budapest. He was not charged, but his pictures were confiscated. Foreign Press Association chairman Jay Bushinsky maintained that the police conduct had in effect turned a journalist into a police informer.

Bruttman, a German citizen, said he was considering appealing to his embassy to protest against the action of the authorities. (Itim)



Andre Bruttman (G. Feinblatt/Media)

Likud could lose Druse votes over Beit Jann

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEIT JANN — The Likud will lose almost all Druse support if it opposes the agreement to return 12,000 dunams in the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve to Beit Jann villagers, local council chief Shafik Assad declared yesterday.

The agreement was reached in a meeting last week between Druse local council heads and Alignment ministers led by Vice Premier Peres.

Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that the deal was a private initiative and not binding on the government. Shamir, who was speaking to reporters during a visit to Upper Nazareth, said there were

conflicting views on the issue. He was referring to the opposition of the Nature Reserve Authority and ecologists.

Shamir stressed that a solution to the land dispute had to be found, outside of political considerations, and without being seen as a "prize" for violence.

Likud members have been highly critical of the riots last week in which 25 police and NRA rangers were injured, along with six Beit Jann residents.

Assad, reacting to the criticism and Shamir's comments, maintained that political overtones could not be avoided, especially with elections in the offing.

1,000 pilgrims leave for Mecca

Jerusalem Post Reporter
About 1,000 Israeli Arabs crossed the Jordan River yesterday on their way to Saudi Arabia for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

The pilgrims were seen off by Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer and Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens.

Yesterday's group was the vanguard of 4,000 Israeli Moslems joining

ing this year's pilgrimage.

Israeli Arabs have been allowed entry to Mecca for a decade under complex arrangements whereby they receive Jordanian travel documents. Residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip also take part in the pilgrimage, but no official figures were available for this year.

Israeli Arabs are given one-month visas for the pilgrimage and are exempt from travel tax.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith deeply mourns the loss of its national director

NATHAN PERLMUTTER

His leadership, wisdom and courage will long be remembered.

We extend condolences to Ruthann and his beloved family.

On the first anniversary of the death of

ALICE GITTER

there will be a memorial service on Monday, July 20, 1987 (23 Tammuz 5747) at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Shaare Zion Library, Beit Ariella, 25 Sderot Shaul Hamelech, Tel Aviv.

At 5:30 on the same day, we shall visit the grave in the Kiryat Shaul cemetery.

We shall meet at the gate.

The Family

Ties between France, Iran near rupture after Gulf raid

PARIS (Reuters). — France's problems with Iran mushroomed yesterday as a hit-and-run naval raid on one of its ships in the Gulf added to tension caused by two diplomatic wrangles involving Iranian embassy employees in Paris.

Gulf-based salvage operators said two Iranian gunboats early yesterday strafed the 21,111-gross-ton container vessel Ville d'Anvers with 20 minutes of machinegun and cannon fire, causing damage but no injuries.

The ship's radio operator said the attack took place in strong moonlight but he could not be sure that the gunboats had identified the ship as French.

French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said he could not rule out the attack being linked to diplomatic wrangles between Paris and Tehran which have brought the two countries close to rupture.

France demanded an official explanation from Tehran for what it called a "grave affair."

French police are surrounding the

Iranian embassy in Paris to catch interpreter Vahid Gordji, who is wanted for questioning over last year's bombing campaign in the French capital which killed 13 people.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac threatened last week to cut diplomatic relations unless Gordji, believed by France to be a senior intelligence agent despite his lowly title, leaves the sanctuary of the embassy to give evidence.

The diplomatic stand-off worsened Sunday night when Iran asserted that one of its diplomats in Paris was "assaulted and mauled" by officials at the French sector of Geneva Airport on Saturday.

Iran officials said Mohsen Aminzadeh, described as an attaché at the Paris embassy, was in hospital in Geneva yesterday after being beaten on the head and body.

French government sources said, however, the diplomat refused to allow French customs to search his attaché case. He threw a fit when the

customs men insisted and injured himself rolling around on the floor, the sources said.

But an Iranian embassy spokesman dismissed this version. "A diplomat accredited in Paris was beaten up, that's what happened," the spokesman said.

In Geneva, Iran's ambassador to the UN demanded an explanation from France yesterday of the incident.

In another development, Iraq said its warplanes hit an Iranian oil terminal and a vessel.

A high command communiqué said the planes penetrated strong Iranian anti-aircraft defences at al-Farisyah island in the northern gulf and made a "destructive hit" on an oil terminal.

In a related development, the American flag will be hoisted on the Kuwaiti-owned tanker Bridgeton next week to begin U.S. naval protection for Kuwait's oil and gas exports, shipping and diplomatic sources said in Kuwait yesterday.



Children study how to operate personal computers in front of a travelling computer school bus at a Tokyo kindergarten yesterday. The itinerant mobile service, sponsored by Japan Science Foundation, travels around the city to help familiarize children with computers. (Reuters telephoto)

North doesn't respond to senator

'God impartial in U.S. politics'

WASHINGTON. — A U.S. senator yesterday pointedly told Oliver North that God does not take sides in American politics.

The fired White House aide, who frequently has invoked God and patriotism as a defence for secretly funding Nicaragua's Contra rebels, sat silently and attentively as Democrat George Mitchell told him:

"God does not take sides in American politics, and in America disagreement with the policies of the government is not evidence of lack of patriotism."

North, who made a big hit with millions of Americans watching the televised congressional Iran-Contra

hearings last week with his spirited and eloquent defence of President Reagan's policies, did not reply.

Mitchell appeared to be talking as much to the television audience as to North — a technique North used when ostensibly addressing the joint Senate-House investigating committees last week.

North said yesterday there was no conflict in Reagan trading arms for hostages with Iran a month after he called Tehran and outlawed state run by lunatics and criminals.

The Marine lieutenant colonel denied the deal went against the president's policy of not dealing with

terrorists — a policy North said still existed.

North was asked by Mitchell about Reagan's "private policy" that directly contradicted his public policy.

Mitchell quoted from a speech Reagan made in July 1985, one month before sending the first U.S. arms to Iran through Israel, in which the president called Iran "an outlaw state run by the strangest collection of misfits, looney tunes and squalid criminals since the advent of the Third Reich."

North, 43, said: "I see no inconsistency with the characterization of the Iranian government."

Cabinet reshuffled in South Korea

SEOUL (AFP). — President Chun Doo Hwan reshuffled his cabinet yesterday, aiming a new prime minister and eight new ministers in the runup to direct presidential elections later this year.

Heading the 23-member cabinet will be Kim Chung Yul, 70, a retired air force general who was a defence minister in the 1950s and a South Korean ambassador to Washington in the 1960s.

New key ministers include Home Minister Chung Kwang Yong, who was formerly government administration minister, while ex-home

minister Chung Ho-Yong was appointed defence minister.

The reshuffle was criticized by the political opposition, which said it failed to meet their demands for an impartial, non-partisan government during the countdown to elections.

At a news conference, the new prime minister pledged he would do his "utmost" in managing state affairs impartially.

Kim said he believed that greater democracy could not be achieved instantly, but rather should be approached step-by-step.

Hassan on state visit to England

The monarch who kept the queen waiting

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Morocco's King Hassan will always be remembered in Britain as the monarch who kept the queen waiting.

On a scorching hot afternoon, during her state visit to Morocco in 1980, Queen Elizabeth waited 40 minutes for Hassan in the middle of the desert. He was tied up with affairs of state, and the traditional charge of the Berber horsemen just had to wait.

Then, to add insult to injury, the queen was turned away from Hassan's banquet in her honour. The king had ordered the doorman to admit no one else, and the doorman took him at his word.

For his reciprocal visit to Britain this week, therefore, the 58-year-old ruler is taking no chances with his time-keeping.

He flew in to Gatwick Airport yesterday, and repaired immediately to the Grand Hotel at Brighton for a full night's rest. It is only today, at 12.30 prompt, that his three-day state visit officially begins, with a welcome from the queen at Victoria Station.

Hassan clearly believes in travelling in style. He has booked three floors at the Grand, at a cost of

£50,000 for the night, to ensure that his entourage — which includes a personal chef — is comfortable. He is even reported to have imported his own five-foot square divan in place of the bed provided in the hotel's presidential suite.

Ironically, he chose to spend last night in Brighton rather than London for reasons of security. Perhaps he was unaware that the Grand was the scene of a bomb attack on the 1984 Conservative party conference.

Pomp and circumstance apart, the visit is a potentially important one, given Hassan's role as a peace-broker in the Arab world and Britain's recently-renewed interest in Middle East peace initiatives.

When the king meets Premier Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street tomorrow, she will no doubt fill him in on her recent talks with both Foreign Minister Peres and King Hussein, while Hassan will probably seek to heal the rift between Britain and President Assad's Syria.

Hassan has stated publicly that he regrets "Syria rowing across the current of the Arab world," but he would doubtless lobby on Assad's behalf nonetheless, increasing the pressure on Britain to restore some level of relations.

Britain's historical links with Morocco date back to King John's opening of diplomatic ties 794 years ago, but the tangible connections today are fairly insignificant. It is the U.S. and France with which Hassan trades most, receiving political and financial support, and weapons for the western Sahara war.

But Hassan is seeking to boost his relations with Britain and Europe, and has quite seriously expressed an interest in joining the European Community.

He is preoccupied at present, however, with a whole range of domestic difficulties: Morocco's population is expanding rapidly, unemployment is on the increase, foreign debt is reaching unmanageable proportions, the western Sahara war still drags on after 12 years, and there have been signs of a growth in extreme Moslem fundamentalism.

For 25 years, Hassan has guided his country through difficulties such as these, aided since 1972 by a constitutionally established parliament, but an autocrat nonetheless.

Perhaps, then, it is not surprising that he had to keep the queen waiting. As one of his court explained at the time, no discourtesy was intended. "Our king is simply busier than the English queen."



Richest man in world is 'benevolent tyrant'

TOKYO (Reuters). — Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, called the world's richest man by *Forbes* magazine, is known in Japan more for his dictatorial management style and an avid interest in sport than for his assets.

The latest issue of *Forbes*, published yesterday, says Tsutsumi tops the world billionaire chart with an estimated \$21 billion, far ahead of the richest American, Wal-Mart Stores owner Sam Moore Walton, worth a paltry \$4.5 b.

Tsutsumi, 53, personally inherited a substantial part of his father's railway and real-estate business and now controls 70 companies employing 35,000 people.

Two popular business sayings often attributed to him are: "I need mediocre employees. Only the top (executives) must be intelligent," and "If you want to be a manager, forget about days off."

His group includes several transportation companies, real-estate and land-development firms and resort-related businesses, such as the Prince Hotels, one of the world's largest chains.

He is an avid skier and a great fan of ice hockey — so much so that he owns an ice hockey team. But it's Tsutsumi's business style that makes him stand out.

"He is very un-Japanese in that he doesn't rely on consensus at all," said Toshiaki Kaminogo, the author of several books on Tsutsumi.

Asked about *Forbes*'s conclusion that he was now the world's richest man, Tsutsumi issued a statement saying only: "I have no comment to make on that dollar figure."

A graduate of the top private Waseda University, Tsutsumi was handpicked by his father from among four sons to take over most of the family business.

Author Kaminogo told Reuters Tsutsumi's companies were unusual in the world of Japanese business because of the high degree of control retained by the top man.

"It's not exactly a reign of terror. He is often misunderstood," Kaminogo said. "He's benevolent. He's like a godhead in a religious cult."

The most widely reported aspect of Tsutsumi's life is the intense rivalry with his elder brother, who inherited the less powerful Seibu department store group.

"It's true that Seiji Tsutsumi is known as a poet and Yoshiaki as the tyrant. But Yoshiaki clearly is more talented in business," Kaminogo said.

AIDS

From the February 1987 issue of 'Eitanim'

by Prof. Zvi Ben-Zion
Director, Ruth Ben Ari Clinical Immunology Institute
Kaplan Hospital

AIDS - Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome - has cast a spreading shadow of dread on many parts of the globe, particularly on the United States, where 36,800 people have been affected. So far in Israel, only 33 cases have been reported but some 500 people are carriers.

Most Israelis are frightened by the subject, their fear being compounded by a lack of information about the disease. Because the disease has not yet made significant inroads into Israeli society, we consider it definitely possible to prevent its spread, and we are therefore making great efforts to disseminate information on AIDS, and on preventive measures. To this end, we have already conducted an 'open telephone line' questions and answers session, which we intend to repeat.

I give below a number of typical questions that have been asked about AIDS, together with the answers, which should resolve many of the public's doubts and fears:

1. What is AIDS?
Aids is characterized by damage to the body's immunity system, which reduces the body's resistance ability, thus rendering the victim liable to contract severe infections and cancer.

2. What are the main symptoms of the disease?
Raised temperature (38°C) which continues for weeks or even months, swelling of the glands in various parts of the body, weakness, and considerable weight loss. Other signs are repeated fungal and other infections of the mouth and vagina, and unusual lung infections.

3. What causes the disease?
A virus that invades the cells of the immunity system, the blood and other parts of the body.

4. What is the origin of the virus?
It is thought to be the result of mutation in a virus affecting monkeys in Central Africa, and which causes no apparent symptoms in them. The virus spread to North America, Western Europe, and eventually to all continents.

5. Which groups are most at risk?
Most of the people currently affected are in one of these groups: homosexuals, drug addicts, hemophiliacs, and those who receive frequent blood transfusions.

6. Are people outside these groups also affected?
Yes, the evidence shows that people outside

these groups catch the disease but the risk is less, and their numbers are small.

7. How is the disease caught?
Most frequently by sexual contact. The virus tends to concentrate in the semen and in secretions from the cervix. One can also be infected by transfusion with infected blood or blood constituent, and by the use of infected needles to inject drugs.

8. Are all forms of sexual contact equally dangerous?
The greatest risk of infection is associated with homosexual anal penetration. However, the virus can be transmitted to both sexes, in regular heterosexual contact.

9. Is anal sexual contact between members of a couple dangerous?
There is no danger, if neither carries the virus.

10. Can one catch the disease in public places, laboratories, restaurants, cafés, etc.?
No, you cannot catch the disease from chance contact with another person, even by close contact. There is no risk to children attending a school at which a child carrying the virus studies.

11. What is the risk of catching AIDS in Israel?
The chance of catching AIDS in Israel, for those who are not members of the risk groups, is very low, provided they do not make any casual sexual contacts.

12. What is the risk of catching AIDS from a prostitute?
The risk is greater than in the case of sexual contact with those who are not prostitutes, are not members of the risk groups, and do not indulge in sexual promiscuity. The precise degree of risk involved in contact with Israeli prostitutes has not yet been accurately assessed.

13. Is there still a risk of infection from blood transfusions and from blood constituents in Israel?
All blood received at the Israel blood bank is checked for the presence of AIDS antibodies, and portions in which these are found are destroyed. There is thus no risk from blood transfusions in Israel.

14. Why are homosexuals more affected than other groups?
During homosexual anal contact, there is a tendency for small splits to appear in the tissue of the rectum, something that does not usually happen in heterosexual contact. Since the virus is present in the semen, it can penetrate the wall of the rectum and enter the blood stream,

together with other substances in semen which can depress the immunity system and make it more vulnerable to the disease virus. Repetition of such contact increases the risk.

15. How are antibody carriers detected?
By a relatively simple blood test, which is carried out at the following medical centres:

Rambam - Haifa, Ichilov - Tel Aviv, Sheba - Tel Hashomer, Beilinson - Petah Tikva, Hadassah Ein Kerem - Jerusalem, Kaplan - Rehovot, Soroka - Beer-Sheva.

16. Can one be tested, as part of the blood-donation procedure?
Definitely not. Those who are members of the risk groups, or may be carrying the virus for whatever reason are asked not to donate blood.

17. Are all carriers of the antibodies likely to develop AIDS?
Definitely not. The antibodies are an expression of the immunity system's reaction. Apparently, in most cases, the symptoms of the disease will not appear. The current assessment is that the disease will develop in about 10% of those carrying the antibodies.

18. What is the best way to avoid infection?
The best precaution is to avoid casual sexual contact, making this a cast-iron rule in the case of those you do not know. The use of condoms is recommended. It is recommended to avoid introducing semen through the anus, in homosexual contacts.

19. Can the disease be treated?
There is so far no treatment promising a complete cure. Progress has been made in developing experimental drugs against the virus, and for the rehabilitation of the immunity system. Improved treatments have also been developed for the characteristic infections associated with AIDS.

20. What are the prospects for developing a vaccine for AIDS?
Great efforts are being made to develop a vaccine but this is proving difficult because the virus has a tendency to change its form. Nevertheless, considerable progress has been made in our knowledge of the structure of the virus, and this may help in the development of a vaccine. Optimism that the problem will be solved in the not too distant future is justified.

21. Where can up-to-date information be obtained on AIDS?
At the above-mentioned medical centres.

FOREIGN BRIEFS

West German-China relations praised

BEIJING (AP). — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang yesterday praised their country's relations as close in political, economic and cultural fields.

At a banquet in Kohl's honour following talks yesterday morning, Zhao said Chinese-West German relations are a model for cooperation between countries with different social systems and between developed and developing countries.

West Germany has been China's largest trading partner for many years and the two countries' technological cooperation increases daily, he said.

He said China welcomes U.S.-Soviet dialogue and believes Europe's and Asia's security are of equal importance.

Britain's arms contracts on the increase

LONDON. — Britain's share in the world arms market has doubled in the last year to 16 per cent, putting it second only to the U.S., according to new Ministry of Defence figures.

In 1986, the U.S. sold some \$14 billion worth of arms world-wide, while Britain sold \$3.6b., the Soviet Union \$6.8b. and France \$3.5b.

The figures, calculated on the basis of arms contracts signed during the year, show that Britain is one of the few countries increasing its share of the depressed weapons market. France, traditionally Britain's closest rival in the bidding for weapons contracts, has fallen back.

Arms experts believe Britain's military sales will stay strong for the next few years, because of the competitiveness of its products. The \$5b. deal with Saudi Arabia, for the sale of Tornado jets, is expected to lead to other lucrative contracts.

PLO chairman accepts UN temporary trusteeship

BAHRAIN. — Yasser Arafat was quoted yesterday as saying he would accept a six-month UN trusteeship over Israeli-occupied Arab territory and a referendum in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

The London-based *Middle East Daily* newsletter said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman also would agree to the stationing of UN troops on the borders between Israel and the desired Palestinian state.

Arafat hinged this on the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, to be attended by all parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Canadians board ship used in refugee landing

HALIFAX, Canada (AFP). — The Canadian Coast Guard yesterday chased down and boarded the ship believed to have secretly landed 174 illegal immigrants at a small fishing village near here, the Canadian Press Agency reported.

The agency said the *Amelie*, a 59-metre cargo ship flying the Costa Rican flag but registered in Chile, was being escorted to Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia.

Immigration officials said that two men arrested in connection with the illegal landing of the refugees were an Indian and a Swedish national.

Investigators were trying to determine the circumstances of the clandestine pre-dawn arrival, Sunday of the 174 foreigners — claiming to be from India — at a tiny Nova Scotia fishing village.

Major arrested in plot against Aquino

MANILA (AFP). — Security forces have arrested at least one military officer suspected of involvement in a plot to topple President Corason Aquino and return Ferdinand Marcos to power this month, a senior official said yesterday.

Meanwhile, a presidential spokesman said Aquino was unaware of any deal made by aids with two U.S. lawyers who had tricked Marcos into revealing plans to invade the Philippines and restore his regime.

Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre, chief of security forces said his command had arrested a major in active service, and that other military branches had arrested up to three suspects.

He said the major was a member of the *Guardians*, a supposedly disbanded military fraternity linked to past coup attempts against Aquino.

India arrests 70 Africans in Aids protest

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — Indian police arrested 70 African students, protesting yesterday against "discrimination against blacks" in compulsory Aids tests for foreign students.

The students were herded into four police trucks after chanting and brandishing banners and placards in front of the Mauritian high commission.

The government imposed mandatory tests for acquired immune deficiency syndrome last year on foreign students.

Japanese hijacker escapes with million

TOKYO (Reuters). — A masked man armed with a hammer hijacked a bank security van in Osaka yesterday and escaped with 150 million yen (\$1 million) in cash, police said.

They said the man smashed the van's window, ordered the two men inside to get out, then drove off. Police in the central Japanese city later found the van near the robbery scene.

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Kupat Holim

The fate of a people hangs in the balance

DESPITE CERTAIN changes which are now going on inside the Soviet Union, 1987 may prove to be the year in which the prospect of freedom for Soviet Jewry was finally destroyed.

The past months have been full of apparently hopeful signs: a rise in emigration, the release of most of the Prisoners of Zion, and the granting of exit visas to a number of well-known long-term refuseniks. So why is it that despite these signs, this year could end in such terrible failure?

It is because the threat has now shifted from the fate of a few individuals to the fate of the entire Jewish nation in the Soviet Union. A whole people faces a future of captivity unless we act now to save them.

First, there is the new emigration law which came into effect in January. It restricts the right to emigrate only to those who already have "first-degree" relatives living abroad: parents, siblings or children. Of the 382,000 Jews who have begun the emigration process, the new law permits only about 30,000 even to apply. The rest may never be allowed to leave.

Second, there has been a drastic rise in the number of Jews refused permission to leave on the grounds that they are a "threat to state security" due to their knowledge of "state secrets". Under Mr. Gorbachev, anyone applying for a visa is regarded as a possible spy. The threat of imprisonment is used to intimidate even the small number eligible to leave under the new law.

What is the solution being offered by Mr. Gorbachev? He has made vague promises of 12,000 emigrants this year and pretended that this is a huge concession. It is certainly better than 1986, when less than a thousand were allowed out, but it is a substantial fall from the 35,000 in

1973 or the 51,000 in 1979. With nearly 400,000 waiting in line, 12,000 visas a year will not solve the problem.

But the new law and the veiled threats reveal that Gorbachev's 12,000, even if they leave, will not be the first in a new wave of Jewish emigration, but the last train out of Moscow. Behind them, the gates of the Soviet Union will be slammed shut by our complacency and locked tight by our silence.

For those doomed to stay, our struggle is on the brink of failure. Their cries for help are no longer heard. They are drowned beneath an avalanche of sophisticated Soviet publicity.

Gorbachev has made some very limited but very dramatic concessions and exploited them for maximum propaganda purposes, creating an image of improvement in order to deceive the West into thinking that substantial changes are taking place. But behind this smoke-screen the future of our people is being sealed.

Gorbachev's new style has altered the atmosphere of the whole campaign. An enemy that was ugly and barbaric was easy to struggle against. But now the enemy is more sophisticated. He has released the prisoners and stopped arresting Hebrew teachers. He wears an attractive personality, he presents more flexibility in arms negotiations, he sends us theatre troupes and invites our students on exchange programmes. He has deprived us of the dramatic individual cases which used to be the focus of our struggle. Yosef Begun is released from prison but has no visa for Israel. No doubt he will get one, in a flourish of publicity, whenever the Soviet leader feels he wants to be seen as making more "humanitarian concessions."

Our campaign is no longer a simple humanitarian campaign for the rights of persecuted individuals. It is

a struggle for the survival of an entire people doomed to captivity. The situation today seems less dramatic, but the real drama is that we have reached a critical moment in the history of the Jews of the Soviet Union. Their future will be determined by the action we take today.

Our major task is to recapture public opinion. For the first time, it is not we but the Soviet government who are dictating to the West what to think about Soviet Jewry. Even the strongest voices of our Jewish movement, like Begun, Slepak and Nudel, are not being heard above the cacophony of Soviet-orchestrated "good news" emanating from Moscow. Never has there been such a gap between them and those who claim to be defending their cause in the West where the Soviet Jewry organizations are being completely outmaneuvered. These organizations continue to have good intentions, to hold meetings, to pass resolutions, but no one is listening. Even within the Jewish community Gorbachev has a greater impact on public opinion than Jewish organizations. And if our own community isn't listening, why should Gorbachev?

We used to face two major enemies in our struggle: externally, there was the tyranny of the Soviet Union and internally there was our own despair that nothing we could do would change the situation. The Soviet tyranny is still there, but Gorbachev has fooled many people into believing that left alone, he will somehow solve the problem by himself. Our internal enemy is no longer despair, it is this false optimism born of complacency.

Gorbachev has kidnapped our principle of linking Soviet Jewry to other issues on the international agenda and now uses his own form of "linkage" as a threat - that if we protest there will be no arms agree-

By Natan Sharansky

ment, no trade, no summit. He has paralysed the Jews of the West into silence, and pretends that such silence is good for the Jews, good for Western-Soviet relations and good for the peace process in the Middle East. Of course, the reverse is the truth. We remain silent while the Soviets are free to act as they wish.

Gorbachev, by promising minor and insubstantial changes, is using the Jewish organizations in the West. The initiative and the strength with which they campaigned for so many years is being undermined by the subtleties of Soviet policy.

Let us take the example of refusals for "state secrets." For years the Soviets have claimed that every Jew could leave except those possessing secrets. But in practice they used this "regime consideration" as a reason for holding anybody. We never took them seriously. Earlier this year, Western Jewish leaders returned from the Soviet Union claiming they had "assurances" phrased in exactly the same terms, and presented them as a sign of important progress. But since then more and more Jews have been refused for knowing "secrets" and activists in our movement in Moscow are convinced that the display of Western Jewish gullibility and the serious broadening of this problem are closely linked.

Every visitor returning from the Soviet Union over the past few weeks has reported the usual range of attitudes and opinions among the refusenik community, but on one thing they are all agreed: that now is the time to act, now is the time to put Mr. Gorbachev to the test and demand concrete progress. In March Yosef Begun, Vladimir Slepak, Ida Nudel and other leaders of the campaign issued their demands. We can

let them speak for themselves:

1. Every Jew should have the right to the possibility to emigrate to Israel, without having to explain the reason for his decision to do this and with no connection to whether he has relatives in Israel.

2. In a case of refusal based upon regime considerations, the refusal should be given in writing. This document should indicate the organs to which an appeal may be made and the precise time limit of the restriction on the right to emigrate from the USSR. When this time limit has been reached, an exit permit should be granted automatically.

3. The USSR should grant exit permits to Israel to all Prisoners of Zion in the USSR, and also, in the shortest possible time re-examine the cases of refuseniks who have been waiting ten years or more.

Here then is our programme: a massive outcry against the emigration law; a re-affirmation of the principle of free emigration; dealing with the whole dangerous issue of "possession of state secrets"; and demanding a substantial and sustained rise in the numbers allowed to leave. The Soviet Jews are optimistic, but theirs is an optimism based on a true awareness of the reality. It is a fighting optimism, not the complacency born of ignorance and misinformation. The Jews of the Soviet Union say that now is not the time for silence but for action.

We must bring the truth about the situation home to the public, starting with the Jewish public, where our own Jewish organizations must educate the community with vigour and sophistication. They must close the gap between Jewish public opinion and the frightening reality in the Soviet Union, mobilizing all possible resources and reaching every member of the community, through newspapers, television, schools and synagogues. The future of an entire

people is at stake.

The next months hold two prominent opportunities for the world Jewish community to recharge the campaign. First, the Soviet government wants a human rights conference to be held in Moscow as part of the Helsinki review process. The suggestion, of course, is an insult. But there is a danger that Western governments might be seduced by the glamour of the "occasion" into letting it happen. We must make sure it does not: not while there are still political prisoners, not while the emigration law is still in force, not while people are being refused on spurious grounds of "state security," not while there are refuseniks who have been waiting for more than 10 years to leave the Soviet Union and not while emigration is at the pitifully low level of 10,000 or 12,000 a year.

Such a conference will not be acceptable merely if its procedures are the same as they were in Madrid or Vienna, and access is permitted to journalists and others. The human rights conditions in the country where such a conference is held must be in accord with the spirit of Helsinki, otherwise it is a farce.

Second, it seems that Mr. Gorbachev will finally agree to attend a summit with President Reagan in Washington. Last year, the Soviet leader revealed his fear of Jewish demonstrations by agreeing to meet only in Iceland on Yom Kippur. This year, we must show him that his fears are justified, that we have not been fooled.

Our Jewish organizations must regain the initiative and create an atmosphere in which the truth about Soviet Jewry will be pronounced from every pulpit and at every Jewish gathering and as a natural expression of our anger and determination, a vast crowd will greet him in Washington. And there must be

equally vast demonstrations in every other Western capital, outside every other Soviet embassy.

And knowing as we will the truth behind the mask of glasnost, we will not be silenced by the dramatic last-minute release of one or even a hundred hostage Jews. Nothing less than the freedom of our people will silence us again.

And in solidarity with our people, we will believe that we can gain their freedom. Let's leave the scepticism to the academics and the diplomats, to those who always said that emigration was possible, that the prisoners would never be released. We can not afford to be sceptics, we must be believers. If the Jews inside the Soviet Union are optimistic, how can we be otherwise?

I remember the day during my 16 months of investigation for treason, when I sat watching the video tape of a demonstration in the West demanding my release, how the KGB officer in charge of the interrogation team laughed at my faith in the Jews of the free world. "Your fate is not in their hands," he told me, "but in ours."

We proved him wrong, just as we proved the sceptics wrong with the departure of more than a quarter of a million Jews from the Soviet Union since 1970. Our faith that the fate of Soviet Jewry is in our hands and not in the hands of Mr. Gorbachev has never been as vital to their survival as it is right now. If we allow Gorbachev to dictate the fate of our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union, then the 12,000, if they come, will be the last. But if we have our own vision and we set our own target of success, then we can achieve their freedom.

Mr. Sharansky's article appeared in last week's London Jewish Chronicle.

Portrait of my friend

By Michael Beizer

HIS NAME IS Abba Taratuta. Age - already over 50, and in refusal since 1975. Profession - an astronomer, with a PhD in mathematics. Present job - a stoker in a gas boiler facility that drives the steam in a public bath house.

I've known him for a decade. In 1976, I attended a private exhibition of Leningrad Jewish artists at the flat of Evgeni Abegass. As soon as I entered the front door, I encountered a portrait of a man with "outstanding features" (the word, by Abegass, is now in Israel). In addition to the portrait, I was struck by the unusual name, which at the time was unknown to me, though it was already of significance to many Leningrad Jews. I did not know then that very soon, the course of life would bring me close to this man, Abba Taratuta.

The man I came to know is simple and direct in his contacts with people, a sharp-minded man whose eyes flicker with warmth and humour. A courageous and subtle person, who is as righteous as they come.

Over ten years after I first saw his portrait, Abba wished me luck, and said: "I shall consider you my representative there." I felt uneasy. Would I be able to represent him correctly? Am I worthy of this honour?

LAST MARCH, preparations were under way for a refusenik demonstration in front of the Smolny Institute, which is now the Party citadel in Leningrad.

Mobilizing people for the demonstration was not an easy task. I knew many Jews who were ready to go - at least in principle. But when the time came, it turned out that one refusenik had suddenly received permission, so he no longer needed to demonstrate; a second person had just reapplied for a visa and was afraid of spoiling his chances; a third no longer believed in the general efficacy of such actions. Some others said they would be pleased to go, but wouldn't it be better to demonstrate in Moscow, in the presence of Western journalists?

If Abba had not backed the idea, little or nothing would have happened. His authority as an informal but true leader - one who assumes leadership responsibility in a complex situation - had its effect. He went with us, or rather, for us - since it was clear that his own case would not be helped.

A second and a third demonstration followed, with a growing number of participants each time, thanks to Abba's initiatives.

At the second demonstration, the KGB took a tougher line and were generally troublesome. Boris Lokshin had been arrested and forced into a militia car. It was at this critical moment that Taratuta came up with the idea of an exchange: the remaining 15 minutes of the demonstration for Boris's freedom. The militia lieutenant-colonel who was present rejoiced at Abba's proposal (because it was difficult for the militia-men to endure even another minute of our protest). He ran over to the car immediately, and cried, "Bor'ya [the diminutive for Boris], get out!"

RECENTLY, an enthusiast had the idea of asking Abba about his biography. But even though the man was trusted, nothing came of it. Taratuta could bring himself to say nothing more than a couple of dull and meaningless phrases.

Afterwards, the interviewer complained: "What kind of man is he?"



Abba Taratuta (Louis Rapoport)

Everybody says, "Taratuta, Taratuta..." But that famous Taratuta failed to say even a few interesting words about himself. Very dull.

But herein lies Abba's uniqueness. He simply does not like to boast, or to speak about himself. There has developed within him a strong habit not to tell more than is necessary.

I can imagine the disappointed faces of the investigators who question Taratuta about his friends. "Nothing interesting there - why couldn't he tell us at least something?"

Those who have been under such investigation know how hard it is to refrain from saying something interesting, year after year. Nor is it easy, through the years spent in the trying atmosphere of refusenik life, to preserve self-control, sharp thinking, mental fitness. Even remaining an honest and reliable person is more than most can do in that abnormal life.

The man who interviewed Taratuta did not even extract Abba's recollections of all the interrogations and searches, the vicious attacks in Soviet newspapers, all the insults and threats he has been through. He should have asked Abba to show him some of the many letters he has received from common people, old Jews living in distant Russian districts, and to read how grateful they are to him for sending them a simple calendar, an old prayer book, a cheap mezuza, or a package of matzot.

Abba does not differentiate between Jews. He tries to find a way to help whoever asks for it. He is not inclined to paths. He does not consider someone's choice of Israel instead of the USA as heroic. He doesn't wear any Jewish symbol or charm, and does not intrude with preaching about Israel. Still, there is a precious object in his house, a little souvenir - a musical toy that plays only "Hatikva".

The toy was brought to him many years ago by an Israeli. And Abba, not at all a sentimental man, keeps it as a symbol of hope and his unbreakable ties with the land and people of Israel.

At the demonstrations, he chose to hold a placard with a simple message: "Let us go home." He has no doubts where his home is.

Abba's sparse hair is getting grayer as the years go by. His wife, Ida, is frequently ill. Their son, Misha, gave his first refusal when he was only 12. Today, he is a man of 26, an artist. And thank God, he has just received permission and will soon be among us. But his parents are still kept there in Russia, hostages.

They are now the longest term refuseniks in Leningrad.

(Michael Beizer, who arrived in Israel last month, is the author of a major history of the Jews of St. Petersburg/Leningrad, which is to be published in the U.S. next spring.)

Compiled by Enid Wurtman from reports received by the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, the London newsletter "Jews in the USSR," the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Israel Action, the "35s" group and other sources in the Soviet Union, Israel, England and the U.S. The dates indicate when the reports were received.

JUNE 26

In a recent statement, leading Jewish activists have denounced "Pamyat" ("memory"), the anti-Semitic group, in a recent statement which they have addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev: "Twenty years of anti-Zionist propaganda conducted in the mass media has now borne fruit. Anti-Semitic fires which have smouldered for a long time in the depths of Soviet society have now burst into the open in the form of the 'Pamyat' organization... Following the example of the anti-Semitic organizations which existed before the October Revolution, they have resurrected the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion.' They have also adjusted Hitler's slogans on the 'international plot of world financiers, Jews and Bolsheviks' to Soviet conditions and restored them in the form of an international world conspiracy of Zionists, Masons and imperialists."

"Pamyat has presented demands to exclude Jews from all spheres of public life, productive work and culture. Its leaders have been overtly calling for pogroms, explicitly demanding that the Jews should be torn to shreds and thrown out the

windows... The slogans used by Pamyat are directed against all Jews, both those wishing to leave and those wishing to remain in the USSR. However, the Jews, deprived of any form of national organization and considerably smaller in number than the indigenous population, cannot repulse the attacks of their enemies within the USSR, while repatriation from the USSR has, in fact, been rendered impossible for most of them by the existing laws... Therefore, before Pamyat stages its first pogrom and before any Jew becomes its victim, we demand: an immediate end to the wave of anti-Jewish propaganda and the restraining of those calling for physical violence against Jews; the granting of permission to repatriate to Israel to all Jews wishing to do so and in cases, when some must delay their departure for a specific period, the granting of permission to their families."

The signatories include: Natasha Khassina, Inna and Lev Elbert, Vladimir Slepak, Milla and Leonid Volvovskiy, Rosa and Alexander Ioffe, Alla and Lev Sud, Boris Chernobitskiy, Mosley Leiberman and Yakov Rakhlenko, among others.

JUNE 28

Former Prisoners of Zion - including Yosef Begun, Leonid Volvovskiy, Victor Brailovsky and Roald Zelichenok - have sent an urgent request to the President of the Supreme Soviet to release remaining prisoners Alexei Magarik and Yosef

Zissels immediately. They state: "Since the beginning of this year a process of releasing political prisoners have been conducted in the Soviet Union, reflecting the general changes which the country has been undergoing while moving towards the creation of a more open and humane society. Many of us have been freed as a result of these very positive changes. It is, therefore, both puzzling and disappointing that Alexei Magarik and Yosef Zissels, who did not commit any crime and who are no more 'guilty' than any one of us, are still languishing in prison."

JUNE 29

Former Prisoner of Zion Ida Nudel, who was banished to Siberia, and then to Bendery, was the first refusenik to receive a document from the Ministry of Justice of the USSR which clearly states that a refusal to an application to leave the USSR can be appealed to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Nudel, a refusenik for 16 years, was also informed that "in view of this form of appeal against decisions of the Ovir (emigration office) authorities, citizens have the right to demand a reply in writing to their applications for emigration."

JULY 1

Vera and Semion Katz invited Western journalists to their home on June 24 in Moscow. Militia broke into their apartment and stopped the

proceedings. On June 25, a defamatory article appeared in *Vechnaya Moskva* against the Katz family. Several insulting and offensive telephone calls followed. Semion, a physicist, his wife, and their children, Lena and Sasha first applied to immigrate to Israel eight years ago.

JULY 3

The Palanker family of Yerevan has been granted an exit visa with the exception of Evgenia. She has been told that her husband and sons could leave, but her former work as a computer programmer in the radio industry will be considered classified for many years and thus prevent her from repatriating to Israel for the foreseeable future. The Palankers were first denied exit visas in January 1976.

JULY 4

Ovir has confirmed the refusal of the Volvovskiy family until 1994, 20 years after they first applied for exit visas to Israel. Leonid (Ari), 45, a computer scientist, a leading Hebrew teacher and Jewish culture advocate, was released from imprisonment on March 22. Ari was serving a three-year sentence on spurious charges of anti-Soviet slander, and was released prior to completing his full term. Ari and Milla's daughter, Kira, 19, a second generation refusenik, had hoped to apply independently of her parents, but Ovir refused to accept her documents for emigration.

Address letters to the Volvovskiy family at: USSR, Gorky 603081: Krilova 14a, apt. 15, Volvovskiy, Milla and Leonid.

JULY 6

Former Prisoner of Zion Roald Zelichenok, 50, an electrical engineer, has been informed in writing that his former position at the Cytology Institute is no longer available to him, as the project he worked on prior to imprisonment has been completed. It is, also, not feasible to employ him on a new project for budgetary reasons, he was told. Ovir in Leningrad recommended that he and his wife, Galina, reapply for exit visas.

Since Galina's health is markedly deteriorating, the Zelichenoks are considering the possibility of Galina applying separately for a visa for purposes of receiving medical care. Galina suffers from cardiac problems and diminishing eyesight.

Address letter to the Zelichenoks at: USSR: Leningrad 19022, Karpovka 19, apt. 56, Galina and Roald Zelichenok.

JULY 7

An exhibition on synagogues in the Soviet Union opened today unofficially in the home of refusenik Semion Yantovsky. A retired engineer, Yantovsky, 78, who first applied for an exit visa in 1971, travelled throughout the Soviet Union to visit 100 synagogues. The exhibition contains photographs, pictures, and diagrams, with explanations about each synagogue. Some of the most beautiful edifices have been transformed into theatres, or meeting halls for the Communist Party. 130 synagogues are still in existence, and 88 minyanim are meeting, mostly in small dilapidated facilities, often outside the cities in houses of prayer. The greatest percentage of Jews who attend synagogue can be found in the Caucasus, where 25 per cent of the Jewish population pray in synagogues, according to Yantovsky.

JULY 9

Yosef Begun celebrated his 55th birthday today in Moscow with his wife, Inna, and his friends, many of whom are long term refuseniks, like himself, including Alexander Lerner, Inna and Yuli Kosharovskiy, Irina and Victor Brailovsky, and Elena and Vladimir Prestin, among others. Last year, on his 54th birthday, Yosef was alone and isolated in Chistopol Prison.

Emigration statistics: 790 Jews left the Soviet Union in June.

The Soviet Jewry page, which appears fortnightly, is edited by Louis Rapoport.

News calendar

Jewish literature blossoms

By Geoffrey Wigoder

tered a *tabula rasa* on their arrival. Cut off - for many of them, from birth - from Jewish culture, their integration into a new society was severely hampered by their lack of knowledge of its values and heritage.

A look at the catalogue of the Sifriyat Aliya shows the extent of its achievement. Appropriately the first published volume was Uri's *Exodus*. It was soon followed by the Zionist classics - Hess, Herzl, Ahad Ha'am, Jabotinsky - and the founding fathers of modern Hebrew literature, such as Bialik, Tchernikovsky, Shlonsky and Agnon. Later Israeli writers are extensively represented - Alterman, Shamir, Barior, Megged - as well as Jewish fiction writers in the Diaspora: Singer, Fast, Malamud, Henry Roth, Schwarz-Bart, Bellow, Koestler.

The outstanding works of modern Jewish scholarship have now also been published in Russian - Scholem's *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, Urbach's *The Sages*, Finkelstein's *Albion and Anita Shapira's Berl*. Books by authors such as Heschel and Milton Steinberg present a Judaism from which the readers have been severed. The main historical work is the *History of the Jewish People* edited by Professor Shmuel Ettinger (one of the series' key advisers), which grew out of the series of history lessons broadcast in Russian over *Kol Zion Lagala*.

The society's most ambitious project is the publication of the *Russian Jewish Encyclopedia*. Three of the seven volumes have appeared, the most recent being largely devoted to the entry "Israel." This project was begun as an abbreviation and translation of the *Encyclopedia Judaica* but it soon became apparent that a

completely different approach was required. In contrast to western readers, nothing could be taken for granted in the Jewish knowledge of

the Russian readers. Moreover the influences they had absorbed from their life in the Soviet Union has constantly to be borne in mind. The encyclopedia is being produced with constant attention to their special mentality, background and needs. Particularly problematic has been the assemblage of a staff capable of writing in modern idiomatic Russian, while being sufficiently well versed in basic Jewish studies. The key editors have been Professor Michael Zand and Yitzhak Oren (Nadel).

Up to now, 8-10 books have been produced each year in the Sifriyat Aliya but a new long-term programme calls for 20 volumes of which eight will be for children and youth. The director of the project is a retired Israeli diplomat, Avraham Avidar, and the chairman of the council is the chancellor of the Hebrew University, Avraham Harman. The project is providing a cultural lifeline to Soviet Jews, binding them, wherever they are, closer to the Jewish heritage.



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THE TENSION and anxiety which arise while waiting results of mammographies and breast-lump biopsies are unbearable, as any woman who has undergone these tests will testify. For the vast majority, the results will show a benign growth, but for the five per cent or so of women whose tests are positive, the agony is only beginning.

It is in the darkest hours after a mastectomy that the volunteers of Yad Lechachama ("Reach for Recovery") a national programme run by the Israel Cancer Association, step in.

Discussions with medical staff certainly help, but the volunteer who "has been there before" is best equipped to deal with the patient's fears and doubts, according to Sara Brandes, coordinator of Yad Lechachama in Haifa. Thus, there is painstaking selection and careful training of volunteers.

"We aim to pay our first visit to post-mastectomy patients three days after surgery," she says. "From our experience, at that time they are at their lowest ebb."

Twice a week lists are collected of patients and suitable volunteers, categorized by age, language and background, are sent to visit. Brandes explains that the volunteers provide information and a prosthesis so the patient can leave hospital in regular clothing.

The patient is also armed with

An answer for agony

Understanding and support are offered post-mastectomy patients as part of the Israel Cancer Association's 'Reach for Recovery' programme, Wendy Blumfeld reports.

leaflets for her husband, son and daughter - as the case may be, exploring different approaches to coping with the illness and providing support.

According to Brandes, each volunteer visit is followed up and more in-depth support is provided, where necessary. Three months after surgery, Yad Lechachama invites the patient to its offices where she can discuss practical and less tangible issues disturbing her. An "open house" is held once a month where women can seek peer-group support.

"A mastectomy patient goes through a period of mourning," Brandes says. "There are various stages - shock, denial ('I didn't need the operation. It was a mistake'), depression, despair and finally, acceptance and optimism."

The time of greatest stress, she adds, is when the diagnostic tests are

being processed. Yad Lechachama has yet to find a way of helping women through that stage, but they are exploring ways to fill the vacuum.

Immediately after surgery, there is almost a feeling of relief, explains Brandes, but the "crunch" comes just afterwards: that's when volunteers are most needed.

VOLUNTEERS are carefully screened, says Brandes, who herself underwent a mastectomy eight years ago. The criteria for acceptance are: a three-year time period since the prospective volunteer's mastectomy; a sensitive personality; proof that she has distanced herself sufficiently from her own trauma to be objective.

An intensive course of 10 sessions ensues with lectures by oncologists, psychologists and other specialists at Yad Lechachama's Tel Aviv centre.

These are followed up by local workshops.

"During the course, there is a kind of self-selection," Brandes explains. "Those women who feel they cannot handle the situations liable to crop up or if they themselves have not yet worked through their trauma, drop out."

"There are many reasons why volunteers apply," she notes. "It may be a way of saying 'thank you' for coming this far, or a genuine desire to help others through the trauma."

With the advanced treatment and early detection methods available today, a greater number of women are getting through those first critical post-mastectomy years. And if a healthy, active volunteer visits a new patient after surgery, Brandes stresses, it can give that woman hope and encouragement while she is in the depths of despair.

Yad Lechachama, which operates through Rambam, Rothschild and Nahariya hospitals, is thinking of expanding its work to include post-lumpectomy patients, as well. (A lumpectomy is the removal of a malignant breast lump, a procedure surgeons favour in cases detected early.)

Yad Lechachama is at 3 Rehov Ma'ayan, Haifa. An open house is held on the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

Minimizing the 'heritage of violence'

Colin Legum

only by the continuing tragedy in Uganda but in countries like El Salvador, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Vietnam, South Africa, Israel and Northern Ireland, as well as among Palestinians.

James P. Grant, executive director of Unicef, writes in a foreword to this book that, on the basis of studies in El Salvador and Uganda, it is possible to anticipate the formulation of programmes that might contribute to repairing the physical and psychological damage inflicted on children of war.

Unicef has evidence that half-a-million children in countries afflicted by violence were saved in 1985 because they were supplied with medication during a diarrhea epidemic and that a further half-million child deaths were prevented in the same year by immunization against common communicable diseases.

However, Grant points out, much more needs to be done than attend-

ing to the medical needs of child victims of war; there must be concern about the mental, emotional and spiritual development of the child.

Dr. Cole P. Dodge, who was in charge of Unicef's operations in Uganda writes: "We anticipated more motivation for revenge among the children studied - following the findings of similar studies in other places where children had experienced prolonged exposure to war - but found very little of this in Uganda. Anxiety and depression, however, were detected."

HOWEVER, WHILE the children of Uganda are primarily the victims of war, some have already become students of war. Dictator Idi Amin told his soldiers: "The gun is your mother, your father and your friend." Political power has been secured, and is still maintained, by the power of the gun over the past 15 years in Uganda. Uganda's present ruler, Yoweri Museveni, recruited children aged 15 or younger for his guerrilla war. The recruiting of children as soldiers and labourers has had tragic results. Dr. Cole reports

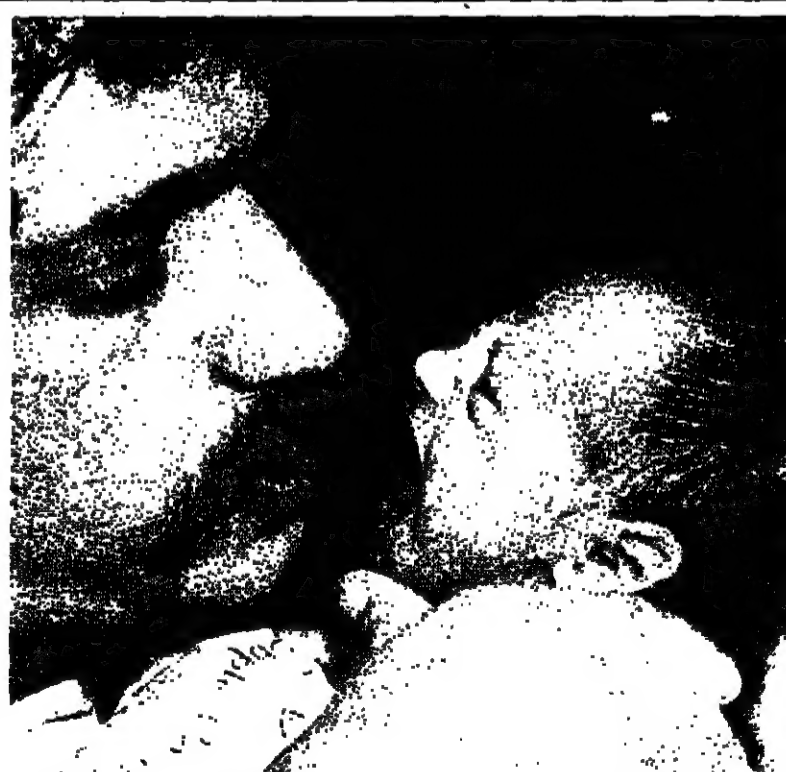
that venereal disease, early pregnancy, hard labour and potential disability threaten the lives and hopes of many of Uganda's children.

Most of the research was carried out by Ugandan health workers and academics. The conclusions of four of them is that Ugandan children directly affected by violence "try to suppress depression and hate, and replace these negative feelings with identification with their people and their country. They are not fanatics. The Ugandan youth are not indoctrinated with hatred or desire for revenge... They do not hate. They do not love. They hope."

Two Ugandans, Prof. Raphael Owor and Josephine W. Harmsworth Andama, write: "We start from one advantage. Nearly every one is tired of violence, tired of fighting. They do not want to perpetuate the rule of the soldier, the power of the gun. Nearly all of us now realize that the path to peace is by reconciliation and rehabilitation."

But, they say, only the restoration of good government will ensure that the elementary needs of children are met.

Therapeutic work done in Israel to help children suffering from the stresses of war was cited in the study. Mutual health groups - what the Israelis call "therapeutic teaching" - within the school setting to help children cope under stress, might be adapted for use in Uganda, say the researchers. (Third World Reports)



What about humans? Research on rats shows that stress during pregnancy can have negative effects on the newborn. (Lisa Fleckow)

Stress in the womb



Judy Siegel-Izkovitch

better throw out the shoes rather than hand them down to the next child. As each foot is different, wearing such used shoes could cause bunions and other foot problems.

ANYONE who has had a blood sample taken knows that laboratory workers, nurses or doctors often have trouble finding a vein and might jab you more than once. Now a British firm has produced a training kit that looks - ghastly - like an amputated human arm but is an artificial copy cast from that of a living British fencing champion.

The skin is made from a plastic that allows natural palpation of the veins, which are filled with synthetic blood. According to a report in the July issue of *Popular Science*, the plastic "skin" is a "self-healing" material that allows injection again and again, without holes. Made by Adam, Rouilly, Ltd. of Kent, the kit comes with a supply of synthetic blood and instructions for injection,

infusion and blood-drawing procedures.

KUPAT Holim Clalit members who are chronically ill and affiliated with the 55 rural clinics in the Galilee are now receiving their medicines by computerization. The health fund says that the prescription is printed out by a computer and its details are checked by a physician. The patients are given the exact number of pills they need to prevent the need to return too soon for more, as well as to prevent the build-up of a surplus. The system will expand to urban clinics in the Galilee, starting with Hatzor.

DO MOST people you see in public washrooms wash their hands after they use the toilet? Probably, according to a mini-survey conducted in the U.S. But only a minority wash their hands if they think they're not being watched.

A researcher at Brigham-Young University hid in the women's toilets on campus and found that few washed their hands after leaving the toilet if they believed they were alone - only three out of 19. But when another person was present, 18 out of 20 washed their hands. One wonders whether there would have been similar findings in an Israeli public toilet.

PEOPLE caught in highly stressful situations sometimes lose their sight very soon after, according to a psychiatrist and ophthalmologist in

the U.S. The condition, reported in the July issue of *Psychology Today*, is called central serous chorioretinopathy, a form of detached retina.

Drs. Gary Gelber and Howard Schatz studied 33 persons aged 25 to 62 who had suffered a loss of vision due to this disorder. After interviewing the patients in detail about events that occurred in the weeks prior to their loss of vision, they found that fully 91 per cent of them had had a very distressing experience shortly before losing their sight.

Among the examples they cited was a 32-year-old handyman who had lost his sight eight hours after his girlfriend told him she was going to "run off and become a prostitute." Another was a 48-year-old woman who came home unexpectedly and found her husband in bed with his 27-year-old niece.

Not all cases involved a single stressful event. One blindness case involved a journalist who was imprisoned in a foreign country for a week. He returned home and broke off with two girlfriends and then a close relative underwent a serious operation. Within this 10-week period, he lost his vision.

Sufferers from this condition also shared certain personality traits, including perfectionism, nervousness, competitiveness and workaholicism. The research team believes that stressful events can cause sudden surges in blood pressure, which could force fluid to leak from the capillaries behind the retina. Tiny blisters then form on the retina, detaching it from the tissue underneath.

THE MAJOR Canadian national newspaper, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, has announced that it will no longer accept tobacco advertising. It has also called for a ban on tobacco promotion. In a recent editorial, the paper noted that the Canadian code of Advertising Standards forbids advertisers to "depict situations that might encourage inappropriate, unsafe or dangerous practices." If the industry were to abide by this clause, said the paper, it would be obliged to stop promoting tobacco altogether.

The paper said that it did "not suggest a ban lightly," but that the public interest was undeniable. Last year, *Hadassah Magazine* gave up its profitable cigarette ads and has been promoting natural orange juice and other products on its prestigious back page instead.

CORRECTION: The recipe for Buck Rarebit which appeared on last Sunday's *Today* page should have called for 1/2 tsp. each of salt, mustard and Worcestershire sauce, and not as stated. In addition, the two pieces fish used in the Cod and Cider Bake should weigh 150 gr. each.

Today is edited by Amy Levinson.

Cards don't need any more breaks

ST. LOUIS (AP). — The St. Louis Cardinals' pitching staff has withstood a broken leg, a fractured foot, and a sore elbow this season with a lot of heart.

Last Friday, the Cardinals found out Danny Cox, 8-3, suffered a broken foot when he was hit by a line drive. That development brought Ricky Horton into the starting rotation.

Horton responded with his ninth consecutive victory on Sunday as St. Louis beat visiting San Francisco 3-2 for their 10th win in 11 games. The Cardinals enter the All-Star break with a 56-30 record and a nine-game lead over second-place Montreal in the National League East.

Horton, 5-0, allowed four hits in 6 1/2 innings in his third start of the season. The left-hander, who has seven saves this season, struck out three and walked one before leaving when his pitching arm was struck by Joe Youngblood's hard line drive in the seventh inning. Preliminary X-rays were negative, a team spokesman said.

Horton was replaced by Pat Perry, and Todd Worrell and Ken Dayley finished the game. The Cardinals lost one left-hander John Tudor on April 19 when he sustained a broken leg in a break against the New York Yankees. Tudor was replaced by Barry Lyons. St. Louis called up rookie left-hander Joe Mauer who won five straight games before landing on the disabled list with a sore elbow.

Horton will play a prominent role as the Cardinals try to hang on to their big lead despite the injuries.

On Sunday, Terry Pendleton homered, Willie McGee had three hits and a run batted in and Jack Clark drove in his major league-leading 86th run to pace the Cardinals eighth attack.

Expos 4, Red Sox 1

Bob Seaver and Andy McGaffigan combined as a three-hitter and Babe Goolsby doubled home the go-ahead run as Montreal defeated hosts Cincinnati for their third straight victory.

Montreal scored twice in the sixth off starter City Hallman, 7-4, highlighted by Bruce's double, to overcome a 2-1 deficit and send the first-place Red Sox to their sixth loss in seven games. The Red Sox have led the NL West since May 29 despite a 29-33 record since May 5.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

It didn't take Baltimore pitcher Dave Schmidt long to redeem himself after one of the worst performances of his career — only 42 hours, in fact.

"I wanted to erase Friday from my mind," said Schmidt, who bounced back from a nightmare outing to pitch a brilliant two-hit, 5-0 victory over the same Minnesota Twins.

Schmidt had started Friday night's game against the Twins, but was only able to get one out and gave up four

runs in a game that ended in a 13-12 Orioles' victory. But Sunday, Schmidt had a perfect game for 5 1/2 innings en route to his third career shutout and second this season.

Schmidt, 9-2, pitched to just one batter over the minimum in setting his career high for victories. He struck out seven, didn't walk a batter, and was perfect until Greg Gagne lofted a soft single to left. Al Newman led off the seventh with a line single to right for the Twins' other hit.

Mariners 6, Red Sox 1

Gary Matthews made his American League debut in impressive fashion, going 2-for-4 and driving in three runs to lead Seattle over Boston. Matthews' hit a home run in his first AL at-bat. The 25-year National League veteran, acquired on Friday from the Chicago Cubs, hit Red Sox starter Al Nipper's third pitch in the second inning off the facade in the second deck in left field at the Kingdome to give Seattle a 1-0 lead.

Matthews became only the third player to reach the second deck in the Kingdome's 11-year history. He also had a two-run single an inning later off Nipper, 7-9, who lasted just 2 1/2 innings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	55	34	.618	—
Toronto	51	36	.589	3
Detroit	48	37	.565	5
Minnesota	42	43	.496	11
Boston	41	47	.466	13 1/2
Baltimore	35	53	.398	19 1/2
Cleveland	31	55	.360	22 1/2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	49	40	.551	—
San Diego	46	41	.529	2
Oakland	46	41	.529	2
Seattle	45	43	.511	3 1/2
Texas	40	45	.471	7
Chicago	34	51	.400	13

Sunday's games: New York 4, Chicago 3; Toronto 3, Kansas City 2; Baltimore 5, Minnesota 0; California 5, Detroit 4; Seattle 6, Boston 1; Milwaukee 4, Oakland 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	56	30	.651	—
Montreal	47	39	.547	9
New York	47	40	.540	9 1/2
Philadelphia	47	41	.534	10
Pittsburgh	42	44	.488	14
Cincinnati	39	48	.448	17 1/2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	47	41	.534	—
Houston	46	43	.520	2 1/2
San Francisco	44	43	.500	3
Atlanta	41	46	.471	5 1/2
Los Angeles	39	49	.443	8
San Diego	37	48	.438	9

Sunday's games: Pittsburgh 4, San Diego 2; Atlanta 3, Philadelphia 3; Montreal 4, Cincinnati 2; St. Louis 3, San Francisco 2; Los Angeles 12, Chicago 6; New York 5, Houston 2.



PICKED OFF. — Montreal's Andres Galarra (left), caught napping by Cincinnati pitcher Tom Browning, dives back to second base, but Reds shortstop Kurt Stillwell is there with the ball to make the tag.

Sluggers' journey into Twilight Zone

OAKLAND, California (AP). — In the year of the home run, the 58th All-Star Game poses a stiff challenge for sluggers — taming the Twilight Zone at one of the worst hitters' parks in baseball.

A notoriously bad glare, the most foul territory in the major leagues and seemingly dead air make the Oakland Coliseum a brutal place to hit. And a 5:30 p.m. local start, arranged to accommodate television, will make it even tougher for batters.

The last time the All-Star Game started at twilight, in 1984 in San Francisco, there were a record 21 strikeouts. The time before, in 1980 in Los Angeles, 15 All-Stars struck out.

But tonight's game may not be a snap for Bret Saberhagen, Mike Scott, Rick Sutcliffe and other top pitchers.

Home runs are up 22 per cent over last year's record pace, and many of those heavy hitters will be in Oakland.

"At the beginning of the season, I didn't know if I'd even have the chance to be on the All-Star team," said Oakland Rookie Mark McGwire, who leads the majors with 33 home runs despite not starting until the third week of the year. McGwire, George Bell and Dave

Winfield highlight a homer-studded lineup that can give the American League something unique — its first consecutive victories in the All-Star Game since 1957-58.

The National League leads the series 36-20-1 and has won 13 of the last 15 and 21 of the previous 24. The AL broke through last year on home runs by Lou Whitaker and Frank White for a 3-2 victory at the Astrodome, which, statistically, is worse than Oakland when it comes to home runs.

Eric Davis leads an NL lineup that includes Jack Clark, Andre Dawson and Mike Schmidt. Davis tops the league with 26 home runs, and is batting .317 with 66 runs batted in.

Davis is also an oddity. While the All-Star game moved west to Oakland for the first time ever, Davis was the only player from a Western Division team voted to start. All 15 other players elected by fans came from the East.

"The East is where it's at," Winfield said.

Winfield, Don Mattingly, Rickey Henderson and Willie Randolph, the first four batters in the New York Yankees' lineup, were all elected to start. Reliever Dave Righetti was selected to the nine-man pitching staff.

Even with Mattingly and Henderson on the disabled list, the Yankees have been the best team in the AL this season. Winfield, accused of hitting in the clutch, has hit 19 homers with 67 RBIs.

Righetti will join Tom Seaver, Jay Howell and Dan Plesac as relievers on the staff. In the past, AL staffs often have been overworked with starters and not enough relievers, a problem the NL usually manages to avoid when it contracts its pitching corps.

"You look around and you see all these great players, guys you admire, and you want to say 'hello' but as pitcher you don't want to get too friendly," Righetti said. "You've got to get these guys out sometime down the road."

One of the batters Righetti could face is Clark, who has been the strength of the NL East-leading St. Louis Cardinals.

The Cardinals have the best record in baseball and Clark is averaging one run batted in per game. He leads the majors with 86 RBIs and is batting over .300 with 25 home runs. St. Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith, also batting over .300, was the top vote-getter.

"I'm basically known as a defensive player. I feel I'm a better offensive player than I'm known," he said.

NL manager Davey Johnson of the New York Mets and AL manager John McNamara of the Boston Red Sox.

YOUTH BASEBALL. — The Dora Netanya Dodgers ripped the Ramat Hashikma Royals 3-2 in extra innings, giving the Dodgers a playoff victory and the right to play the Elan Club of Gush Etzion in the youth league championship series. The opening game of the series this Thursday will be played at 11 a.m. at the Sports in Tel Aviv, with the second game to be played at Jerusalem's Gash Sacher on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Boycotted Israel win two by forfeit

By DARKO PREVIC

Special to The Jerusalem Post ZAGREB (AP). — Kuwait and Indonesia have refused to play Israel in the men's volleyball tournament at the World University Games, organizers said here yesterday, giving Israel two victories by forfeit.

Both matches have been registered 3-0 in Israel's favour. According to the International University Sports Federation (Fisu) rules, the teams that refuse to play scheduled matches must be disqualified from the tournament.

However, the Fisu executive council decided that both Indonesia and Kuwait will be allowed to continue competition in the qualifying group, which also includes Sri Lanka.

Organizers said that the boycott

was politically motivated. They said they have heard unofficial reports that Sri Lanka will also refuse to play their match against Israel, which is scheduled for today.

"We came here to play sports and not to lead politics," commented Israel's volleyball coach Norbert Waldinger.

Fisu council sources said the final decision in case of boycott rests with the council itself, and the decision here was to let the boycott team continue, despite Kuwait's earlier refusal to play Israel's basketball squad which forced last-minute changes in the games' basketball schedule.

But Israel's position in their volleyball playoff group is unique. After losing to China and Belgium in opening round competition, Israel was slated for the playoff group consisting of Kuwait, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Fisu officials plan to meet to discuss the problem. One possible solution — to reschedule Israel into another play-off group against opponents who have no political problem in showing up for the matches.

Late snag: no visas yet

By JACK LEON

Post Sports Staff

Israel Tennis Association officials have expressed surprise at the prolonged delay of the All India Lawn Tennis Association to arrange entry visas for the Israeli Davis Cup team.

Israel's squad, currently completing a week of grass-court practices in Manchester, England, are due to leave for New Delhi on Friday for their world group quarterfinal tie against India, scheduled for July 24 to 26.

But, as of yesterday, the team was still waiting for entry visas, prompting ITA General-Secretary Zvi Meyer to send an urgent telex to his opposite number in Madras, urging

him to ensure that the visas be issued immediately at the offices of the Indian High Commissioner in London.

A member of the Israeli squad in Manchester said last night they planned to send someone today or tomorrow to pick up the visas.

The delegation of about 15 journalists and supporters who will be travelling to India for the match have already received their visas.

The Indian tennis association has expressed its willingness to stage the match ever since last March, when Israel defeated Czechoslovakia and India beat Argentina in world group ties setting up this month's match. But the Indian government delayed giving the go-ahead because of its stringent restrictions on sporting contacts with Israel.

Avi Ran's Olympic dream

Post Sports Staff

The Israel Football Association (IFA) convened a special meeting yesterday afternoon to commemorate Avi Ran, who was tragically killed in a boating accident on the Kinneret on Saturday.

The meeting, which was devoted entirely to the Maccabi Haifa and Israel national team's goalkeeper, considered by many — already at age 23 — a world-class player with tremendous potential, was a very

sombre occasion attended by members of the IFA, the national team coaches and Ran's personal friends and acquaintances.

IFA chairman Shaul Sweri said: "One of Ran's dreams was to reach the Olympic games soccer tournament in Seoul. We must go to Oceania, and see his wish through."

After the period of 30 days mourning the IFA will announce plans to commemorate Ran.



OFF THEY GO. — Uruguay's Enzo Francescoli is brutally brought down by Chile's Eduardo Gomez in Sunday night's fierce South American championship final in Buenos Aires. Both players were sent off after the Uruguay midfielder star retaliated. Francescoli's teammates had the last laugh when a second-half goal by Burcheta lifted Uruguay to a 1-0 victory and their ninth South American title.

SCOREBOARD

GOLF. — Mark McCumber scored a one-shot victory over Bobby Clampett in the Ashburn Golf Club Classic at Williamsburg, Virginia on Sunday.

McCumber shot a 5-under-par 66 on Sunday for a 72-hole total of 287, 17 under par on the 6,776-yard (6,195-metre) Kingsmill Golf Club layout.

TENNIS. — Israel's Oded Wadberg, 16, won the boys' singles crown at the International Tennis Federation's World Junior under-18 circuit tournament near Amsterdam, beating Swedish opponent Joachim Anthelm 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in Sunday's final of the 64-draw. It was Wadberg's first ITF title and marked a rare success for any Israeli player on the world junior circuit.

Tenniste Yael Segal, 15, was runner-up in the girls' singles, going out 7-5, 6-4 to Holland's Stefanie Terwesten in the final.

Holon's New York connection

By DON GOULD

Less than a handful of American basketball coaches have found their way to Israel in the last two decades, and fewer still have made any meaningful long-term impact.

Seeking to buck the trend, Hapoel Holon, who tried once before with Ivan Duncan, have again gone out on a limb in their last frustrated effort to become Israel's new basketball powerhouse.

Holon's recent signing of Marvin Kessler as head basketball coach may be just the move that will not only help the team go the extra steps required to gain the elusive top spot, but will also leave a positive impact on the local coaching scene.

Kessler, the son of immigrant parents, picked up as much of his education on the streets of New York as he did in school. Although his parents, who both laboured in the garment industry, were observant Jews, Kessler's main priority in life from an early age was basketball. In those days N.Y. City was the principal centre of basketball and the game was infused with Jews, especially by children of immigrants.

Kessler was an exceptional point guard at perennial high school powerhouse Boys' High. He played under coach Mickey Fisher, himself an early traveller to Israel, and alongside Shlomo Green, who was to go on to a long and illustrious career in the NBA.

After a stint with the army, Kessler described himself as a "first class" basketball player, but basketball, he went to the Catskill Mountains, then a hotbed of the sport, and became a busboy at a major hotel. That gave him two things that he desperately needed — the opportunity to play basketball, and the ability to earn some money.

It was in the Catskills that Kessler was spotted by the legendary Boston Celtic's general manager and former coach, Red Auerbach, who thought that he had great potential as a college

player and encouraged him to pursue his education.

Kessler took up the idea and received a basketball scholarship to North Carolina where he played under the tutelage of Everett Case and earned a reputation as one of the more creative point guards in the U.S.

Kessler returned to his roots in New York, where he coached many fine basketball teams. He developed a reputation not only as a coach but also as a teacher before accepting the job as head basketball coach of Division II Adelphi University on Long Island.

In the middle of the 1978 season, while his team had a mediocre 8 and 5 record, tragedy struck. The starting centre on the team, a team leader and fine student, died in the middle of a game, a victim of an adverse reaction to medications he was taking for asthma and a viral infection.

Kessler and his charges were so affected by the tragedy that they decided to raise money to help his parents and chose to finish the season by wearing black armbands. The team went on to win their remaining 13 games but when they were given a NCAA playoff bid as a result of their fine record, they voted to turn it down, saying that their reason for winning had not been for the honour of entering the playoffs, but as a form of dedication to a former teammate.

Kessler resigned after that year. He decided he needed "time-out" to re-think the direction of his life. Head coaching, he felt, was too demanding, but he began to exercise his knowledge of the game by giving clinics and symposiums on basketball all over the world, including Israel.

In 1980, Kessler accepted the coaching job at Division I Davidson. He and head-coach Ed Biedenbach brought Davidson from last place in their division to first in two short years.

When Biedenbach was dismissed, Kessler also left Davidson and took a job as a scout for the Detroit Pistons. After three years, he moved over to the Washington Bullets in the same role.

Kessler visited Israel a few years ago to stage one of his by now famous clinics. He became acquainted with many local coaches and officials. When approached by Holon last spring with an offer to resume his head coaching career, he decided the time had come for a fresh challenge.

Kessler says his contract with Hapoel Holon is more than a job. He feels confident that with his special background he can leave a positive mark on the Israeli basketball scene.

But can he win a championship? That was the first question everyone hit him with during a recent visit.

"I'm not a god. I still haven't seen all of my players. I first must see them and then fit a system into their abilities. I am confident that I can accomplish that task."

During the few days that he spent here, Kessler started Holon reorganization efforts, meeting with Galil Elyon's Shmuel Zysman and encouraging Holon to sign him.

Kessler's argument was that every position on the team has a quality back-up except the point guard. Holon accepted Kessler's logic, negotiated with Zysman and this past week signed him to a contract.



FAMOUS CADDY. — Jack Nicklaus follows behind his son, Jack, Jr., pulling the golf cart. Jack, Jr. failed in his bid to qualify for the British Open, which starts Thursday in Muirfield, Scotland. (Reuter telephoto)

Like father, not like son

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, England (AP). — As Jack Nicklaus, Jr., attempted yesterday to secure one of the 16 qualifying places for the British Open golf championship, his caddy was attracting more attention than the players.

The caddy happened to be his father, winner of four U.S. Opens and six U.S. Masters titles who will be shooting for his fourth British Open crown here this week.

But even Jack Nicklaus, Sr.'s vast knowledge of golf failed to help his 25-year-old son gain a place in the tournament. Nicklaus Jr.'s rounds of 73 and 74 at the North Berwick course gave him a seven-over-par total of 147 which put him way down the list of hopefuls.

Nicklaus, Sr. said: "I enjoyed caddy for Jackie, but the boy didn't play too well."

Asked why he was using a trophy and not carrying the clubs himself, Nicklaus, Sr. said: "I may be dumb but I'm not stupid. If I carried the bag I might be disqualified from playing in the Open myself."

After Sunday's first round, Nicklaus, Jr. said his father's advice prevented a higher score. "It would have been a lot more if it hadn't been for my Dad," he said. "I used to be stubborn and not listen to his advice, but now I do."

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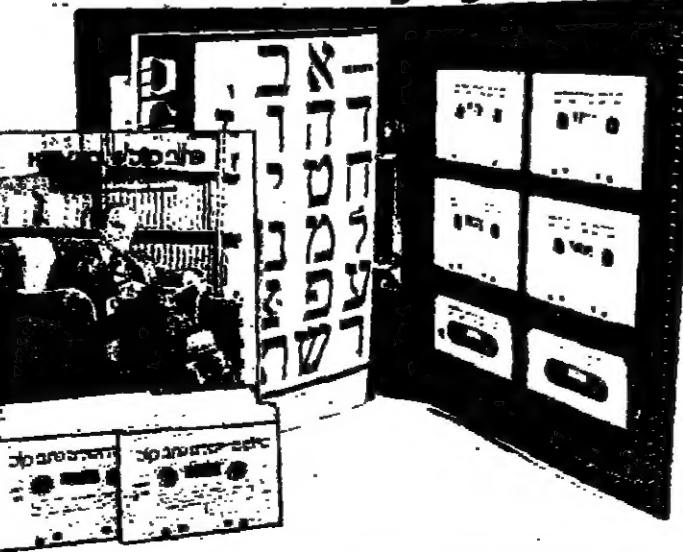
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After cooling-off period

EC-U.S. pasta 'war' on boil

PARIS (AFP). — The scene is set for a new transatlantic "pasta" war, with U.S. President Reagan getting ready to sink his teeth into European Community (EC) subsidies on its pasta exports. Clayton Yetter, Reagan's special trade representative, warned the 12-nation community last week.

Brussels and Washington must soon find a solution to the pasta dispute or the Reagan administration will consider "necessary action" to find a solution, was how Yetter's spokesman, Garry Holmes, set out the problem. He confirmed that trade reprisals would be one of the measures considered.

Three days of U.S.-EC talks in Washington on the dispute, which started in November 1985, ended in apparent failure, and EC External Affairs Commissioner Willy de Clerq said he feared "retaliatory measures."

The dispute was originally caused by an EC accord on access to its markets to citrus fruit from Israel, Morocco and Tunisia that Washington claimed harmed its growers.

U.S. authorities then complained about EC subsidies on past exports, mainly from Italy, to the U.S. because the spaghetti and other pasta were officially wheat products they came under the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which gives generous subsidies.

The American administration first raised tariffs on EC citrus fruits to force Brussels to give concessions to its citrus growers, and the European community responded by increasing tariffs on U.S. lemons and walnuts.

One truce was reached last August, but now Washington is demanding that Brussels cut its subsidies on EC pasta exports by at least 50 per cent so that American pasta growers can compete on their home market.

In light of the previous transatlantic trade spat, the current dispute may not need much heating up before it boils over. Brussels has said it is prepared to cut subsidies by 15 per cent — not a European Currency Unit more.

Ironically, the Americans are threatening Europe with the subsidy reprisals at a time when they have called on all members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to end agricultural subsidies by the end of the century. The Reagan administration is also bitterly fighting a bill in Congress to introduce strong protectionist measures.

According to de Clerq, if Washington applies the measures, the EC Council of Ministers will

determine the losses being suffered by European producers and reconsider the trade agreement signed with Washington in August 1986. The EC has also rejected the U.S. plea for an end to agriculture sub-

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Washington is demanding that Brussels cut its subsidies on EC pasta exports by at least 50 per cent

sidies by the year 2000, and the European Commission Agricultural Director Guy Legras says Brussels will make its own propositions by the end of this year. The U.S. proposal was not in line with "agricultural reality," he said.

The community, in turn, is stepping up its threats against what it considers to be unfair competition from Japanese companies, mainly those of high technology consumer goods.

Leslie Fielding, the European Commission director of external affairs, said Japan is moving in the

Markets are bullish after Hawke win

SYDNEY. — A wave of optimism swept Australia's financial and share markets yesterday following the reelection of Prime Minister Bob Hawke for an unprecedented third term.

Factional squabbles within his Labour Party and turmoil in the conservative opposition after Saturday's election had little effect on the market's buoyant mood.

The Australian dollar strengthened and financial analysts said the share market appeared set for a boom.

The market euphoria was a boost to Hawke, whose election campaign was based mainly on his record of economic management, they said.

Hawke and treasurer Paul Keating have promised to lead the nation out of its economic morass and give Australians a better standard of living. But economists said Hawke would have a difficult task steering the nation out of its balance-of-payments and foreign-debt problems.

"The markets will be looking at the fundamentals again and these are the hurdles that have to be overcome," said ANZ Banking Group chief economist Bob Edgar.

Edgar said Australia's 9 per cent annual inflation rate would need to fall sharply to allow interest rate cuts, and that could only be achieved through reduced government expenditure and contained wages growth.

National Australia Bank chief economist Brian Hamley said tough fiscal policies would have to continue. In the wake of Saturday's electoral victory for the Australian Labour Party, analysts were predicting short-term support for the Australian dollar, falling interest rates and continuation of the bullrun on the Australian stock market.

They tipped that the dollar was heading for a fall as economic realities surfaced. BZW Measures Ltd. Director Ian Story said he expected the Australian dollar to drift down towards 65 cents to the U.S. unit, with interest rates continuing to fall over the next few months.

"The question is not will the dollar come down but...can the government manage it downwards in an orderly fashion so that it doesn't cause disruption and chaos," said Story.

The first test is likely to come in a budget in September, when Hawke has promised not to increase taxes or impose new ones. (Reuters, AFP)

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Life after losses

So there's still somebody in there, minding the shop. United Mizrahi Bank has emerged from a prolonged period of torpor to remind us that they are in business, and capable of some new moves in both the consumer and corporate spheres.

Thus a shower of press releases from Mizrahi in the last couple of weeks have heralded developments in a number of sectors. Each by itself cannot be considered a breakthrough, and most are responses to prior moves by rivals or embellishments of existing Mizrahi programs. Taken together, though, they indicate that Mizrahi is back in the game. At the least, they have generated enough noise to make it worthwhile to see what, if anything, all the fuss is about.

A theme that Mizrahi has been plugging for some time now is the channelling of resources to small businesses to

give them better credit terms than might usually be available. All the banks are busy scrambling for market share in this area of the economy, and Mizrahi has chosen to attack through select campaigns, such as the one mounted before Pessah and aimed at easing the liquidity pressures on shops and small firms. Subsequent initiatives along similar lines suggest that the target audience reacted positively.

But in the main arena of consumer banking, Mizrahi — even more than Israel Discount Bank — has been conspicuously absent, while Leumi and Hapoalim have slugged it out for supremacy. In this, the smaller bank pointed out, quite rightly, that it originally introduced what it called "active current accounts" in 1985. This account offered customers daily interest rates which currently amount to 6 per cent per annum. In order to qualify, customers have to hold a credit balance of between NIS 40 and NIS 500. But these details, which Mizrahi capped by pointing out that it, unlike Leumi, does not make a monthly charge for this service, ignore the other important aspects of Leumi's daily account, such as the absence of bank charges except for cheques of up to NIS 50. One can only wait for the "improvements" that Mizrahi has promised in its existing programme, to see whether these beat Leumi or at least match it fully.

Meanwhile, Mizrahi has chosen to strike out in other directions. One of these is a contribution to the "loans for savings" fund, which is coming to centre on the bank share redemption due in late October.

Thus we find Mizrahi, beginning this week, offering unusually cheap loans for customers interested in using the money to invest in the bank's savings schemes or in provident funds under its management.

This is that, without reference to the bank shares, customers with existing overdraft facilities or credit lines can increase them — so long as they take the extra money, which is not at all cheap, and deposit it in savings or provident schemes. The real return of these is 5 per cent per annum. The real cost of the loans is currently around 30-40 per cent per annum. Is it worthwhile? Or is there, after all, some logic to the demand that investment counselling should be stripped out of the commercial banks?

A third alternative, again without reference to the bank-share redemption, allows any Mizrahi customer to take a loan on the basis of prime plus a half per cent and deposit the money in a savings scheme or provident fund, with the loan plus interest repayable over six months.

A more interesting scheme, although it is a rehabilitation of an old idea that Hapoalim and Mizrahi have both used on and off, is a new savings scheme for higher education, suitable for youngsters between the ages of 12 and 19.

The saver (who could be a parent, grandparent or whoever) builds up money through monthly deposits for a period of up to eight years, and receives the usual linkage plus index-linked interest on his funds. The longer he saves, the higher the interest, with a top level of 4 per cent. The specialness of the scheme begins if and when the saver, or the beneficiary of the savings, produces proof that he is enrolled at an institute of higher education. In this event, he will receive a bonus of an extra 1 per cent per year of savings (i.e. up to 5 per cent), also index-linked.

On the other hand, for those who need the money, withdrawals are possible after two years, and subsequently every six months. The saver receives linkage right up to, and including, the month in which he makes the withdrawals.

This scheme, and the more specialized business credit programmes that Mizrahi has been trying, at least illustrate that the bank is seeking ways of building niches. How it will react to Leumi's "free banking" daily account may also cast light on where Mizrahi is heading for. Other moves, such as giving expensive loans for cheap savings, show that the old Mizrahi penchant for going with the herd on the latest banking craze is still alive and well. But, all in all, the flurry of activity from Mizrahi is welcome evidence that the leadership struggle and the losses it recorded in 1986 have not knocked it out of the running altogether.

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- There's some depression about the pages being spotty (6)
 - Concern for profit (8)
 - Jumped up when a policeman telephoned (6)
 - Give trouble to change-giver in time (8)
 - Mouth a letter (5)
 - Brew right drop (4)
 - Lacked breath to get involved, though feeling wicked (5-7)
 - A capital operator (5-7)
 - Surplus, it's concluded (4)
 - Mother managing a stud-farm? (5)
 - Strip off in the Isle of Man (4)
 - Skilled worker giving men a chic new look (8)
 - People putting a lyric into writing (6)
 - Memorable industrial action (8)
 - About a hundred, and a character—has created a niche (6)
 - Report of the French writer (8)
 - With little money, the working man is prejudiced (8)
 - Sustained hunger (4)
 - What may well be assumed by women preparing for retirement (12)
 - The peer left with a listening device first (4)
 - One following another team? (6)
 - Those persons holding gold as a speculation (6)
 - Professional man in a train—ever so well-organized (12)
 - Go round for some clothing (5)
 - Drink obtained by rail (5)
 - When properly cooked, eat green produce (8)
 - They're forever breaking down (8)
 - A Greek island doctor's creation (6)
 - The dealer is a little schemer—certain to cheat a guy (6)
 - Financial institution causing a row (4)
 - Lock up silver in the church (4)



- DOWN**
- Thief
 - Very old
 - Tongue
 - Shortly
 - Bury
 - Unarmed combat
 - Welcome
 - Revenge
 - Shorten
 - Money-order
 - Amusing
 - Rue
 - Asound
 - Move briskly
- QUICK CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Actually
 - Adhere
 - Cured meat
 - Cock
 - Carry out
 - Small stones
 - Hot drink
 - Male deer
 - Scheme
 - Finish
 - Imposture
 - Book
 - Dispute
 - Poisonous snake
 - Upright
 - Unproductive land
- DOWN**
- Thief
 - Very old
 - Tongue
 - Shortly
 - Bury
 - Unarmed combat
 - Welcome
 - Revenge
 - Shorten
 - Money-order
 - Amusing
 - Rue
 - Asound
 - Move briskly

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Elison, 10 Yeshayahu, 222563; Balam, Salah Edin, 272315; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282088.

Tel Aviv: Hakira, 19 Ibn Gabirol, 204600; SuperPharm, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 415730.

Ramat Gan: Kfar Sava: SuperPharm, 3 Oetahinsky, Kfar Sava.

Nesanya: Kupat Holim Leumi, 9 Smilansky, 335053.

Kiryat Yotam: No details available.

Haifa: Nordau, 13 Nordau, 664038.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Shaar Zedek (pediatrics, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology), Bnei Haim (internal, obstetrics, E.N.T.). Tel Aviv: Roshak (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery). Netanya: Lemido.

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Carmiel 986333 Netanya 33333

Dan Region 781111 Patah Tzvi 9221111

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Hadera 32333 Rishon LeZion 94333

Haifa 812233 Salfit 30333

Hatzer 92333 Tel Aviv 580111

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Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-433000, 433000 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kessar: Strike was display of unity

By JEFF BLACK

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar said yesterday that the union's strike was a display of unity. He said the union's 24-hour general strike in the public sector would hasten the signing of a collective wage agreement.

Speaking at the Histadrut's central committee meeting in Tel Aviv, Kessar stressed that he was not against individual unions reaching separate agreements with their employers.

Haim Haberfeld, the Histadrut's trade unions department head, told the committee that Finance Minister Moshe Nissim has had enough time to consider his proposals for tonight's

meeting between Histadrut representatives and Treasury officials. If Nissim had nothing new to offer the trade unions, Haberfeld warned, then the unions would launch a new and fierce campaign.

Haberfeld pointed out that the union's leadership was already under pressure from the rank-and-file to continue industrial action. The longer the negotiations continue without results, said Haberfeld, the harder it would be to restrain these workers.

Signs of this unrest were apparent in the Tel Aviv court building yesterday morning. At 11 a.m. the court's clerks and other administrative workers called a wild-cat strike for the rest of the day.

Shmuel Levy, chairman of the court workers' national committee, said the strike followed the Histadrut's refusal to allow the secretary-general of the civil servants union, Reuven Ben-Ami, to conduct separate negotiations with the Treasury. Levy said the national committee would meet this morning to discuss further action.

Ironicly, Ben-Ami said he was opposed to the walkout. He told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that he had tried to dissuade Levy from this action but, he said, "maybe Levy wants to be an independent hero." He described Levy as "naive."

Ben-Ami said he had decided on Sunday evening to join the Histadrut's negotiating team for tonight's

talks and reiterated his position that no industrial action should be taken until after the results of these talks are clear.

Ben-Ami also refused to discuss the Treasury's proposal for a wage rise in return for a two-year wage agreement because "we don't know what they are going to offer us."

Prime Minister Shamir, meanwhile, said yesterday that he did not think that "wages are the central problem in the life of the working man. Israeli salaries are not particularly high but nor are they wages of deprivation." The premier was speaking to reporters while on a visit to Upper Nazareth.

Soltam to shut down for 5-week breather

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. — The financially troubled Soltam Ltd. arms and ammunition company, based in the development town of Yokneam, will close down for five weeks starting next Sunday to give management and workers a chance to explore ways to fend off a permanent closure.

But already sources were saying yesterday that there was little chance Soltam would resume full-scale operations when the five-week breather was up.

Eight-hundred of the plant's 1,050 workers will get fully paid leave, while the remainder will report to the plant to look after the machinery. During the five weeks, a committee comprising management, workers, the Haifa Labour Council and the Histadrut will discuss ways of putting the debt-ridden concern back on its feet.

Management had originally proposed

shutting down the plant for six months, and pay workers from their accumulated leave, to help Soltam use up its swollen inventories. But workers, backed by the Haifa Labour Council, rejected the plan.

Soltam, which is 75 per cent owned by the Histadrut's Koor Ltd., has been unable to find customers for its guns, mortars and shells. Sources have said the company is no longer price competitive on the world market. As a result, it has built up inventories of unsold goods amounting to \$70 million, which, according to Chairman Shlomo Zabludowicz are costing Soltam \$250,000 a day to maintain.

Soltam is the principal employer in Yokneam, outside Haifa, and its closure would be a heavy blow to the local economy.

Management has dispatched its sales force overseas to try and market as much of the inventory as possible.

Lebanese leaders meet on currency crisis

BEIRUT (Reuters). — The collapse of Lebanon's pound triggered a rare meeting of Christian and Moslem ministers yesterday as foreign exchange markets were virtually paralyzed for a second straight trading day.

The central bank posted a nominal closing price of 177.50 pounds to the dollar, some six pounds up from Friday's record low close of 184.00.

But dealers said there was virtually no foreign exchange trade and that the central bank price was an emergency benchmark of no real significance. "People are frightened of selling and buying," one dealer said.

The dealers said they were waiting for the reopening of La Societe Financiere du Liban (SOFIL), the chief interbank foreign exchange

WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Share prices in London pass 2400

LONDON (Reuters). — Equity prices breached the psychological 2400 level yesterday, although the rise ran out of steam later in the day.

Encouraging weekend press comment and hopes of substantial Japanese buying interest helped initial sentiment, with the rise in prices assisted by a general stock shortage. However, overall demand and particularly overseas interest failed to live up to expectations and prices fell

back under the influence of a softer trend on Wall Street, dealers said. At 1500 GMT the Financial Times 100 share index was up 10 points at 2391.9 after earlier touching an all time high of 2402.8.

Dealers said the stock shortage was indicative of long positions being taken on a belief that sizeable demand from the Far East would soon materialize. Opinion on the market's short term performance is divided as the traditionally dull mid-summer period approaches.

U.S. CRUDE-OIL prices on cash and future markets advanced nearly 15 cents a barrel to \$21.50 a barrel on news of more tanker attacks in the Persian Gulf.

Gulf shipping sources said a French flag vessel, the *Ville d'Anvers*, was attacked and damaged by an unidentified gunboat in the Gulf yesterday, and an Iraqi high command communique later said Iraq had hit an Iranian terminal, Al-Farisiyah, and a vessel in the Gulf.

Mid-east tensions sent crude oil prices over \$21 a barrel last week and traders and analysts said then that future attacks would fuel a dramatic price increase.

JORDAN'S ECONOMY recovered last year to register a 3.7 per cent overall growth despite general recession in the region caused mainly by the fall in oil prices, the central bank reported yesterday.

The bank's annual report said inflation last year fell to zero after rising 3 per cent in 1986.

British tourism

Egypt vying with Eilat

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — British tourism to Egypt increased 45 per cent last winter, and the prospects for the coming winter are exceptionally good, according to Rafi Baer of the Israel Government Tourist Office here.

However, Eilat is this year having to compete with Egyptian tourist resorts, which have set their sights keenly on the British winter sun market.

Egypt suffered badly last year from its dependence on the U.S. market, which dried up last year as Americans opted to stay home in the wake of a series of terror incidents. It is now promoting the tourist villages of Sinai and Hurgada, and the more sophisticated resorts at Aswan and Luxor, in the British market.

"The Egyptian government is encouraging development in Sinai through a variety of incentives," said Samir Darwish, of the Egyptian State Tourist Office here.

The Thomas Cook travel company has set up a special Egyptian package tour, and charter flights from London to Luxor have also proved popular. In addition, Egyptian resorts are likely to benefit from Eilat's continuing shortage of hotel beds, which limits the possibility of last-minute bookings.

Eilat was almost full to capacity last winter and, with 30,000 British tourists flying directly to Eilat this winter, to be joined by up to 10,000 Britons travelling from the north of Israel, the hotels are likely to be fully booked this year as well.

EC-SYRIA

(Continued from Page One)

sen is understood to place a low priority on contact with Syria in particular and on Middle East in general.

Many Middle East experts close to EEC believe, in any case, that prospects for an international conference have worsened significantly in recent weeks, citing Jordanian King Hussein's hosting of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as one reason.

Prime Minister Thatcher yesterday urged Hussein to take full advantage of conditions to advance the Middle East peace process.

During two hours of talks at Downing Street, Thatcher stressed the importance of not missing the opportunity to take major steps forward towards peace.

The king, who is on a private visit to the UK, was accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Sharif Binshekar.

CONFIDENCE

(Continued from Page One)

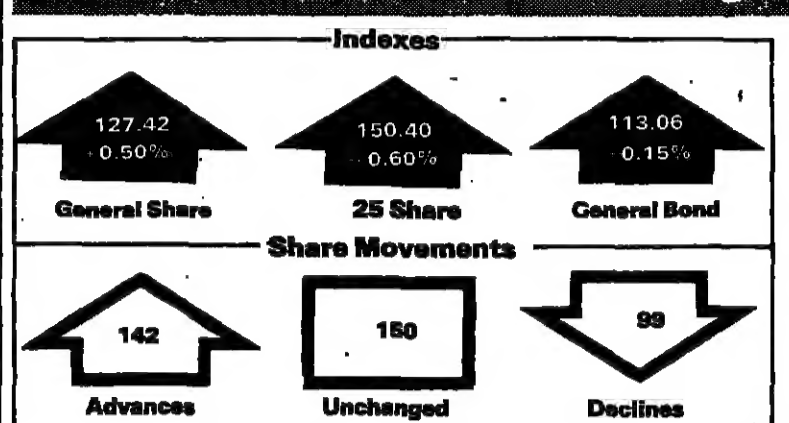
whether Shamir had voted against the government was less relevant than his voting to pardon a group "who harmed our security and well-being," as Rubinstein put it.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu, replying for the government, insisted that there had been no attempt at a *putsch*, as Sarid had said, since when the clemency bill was presented in December 1985 it had been backed by 52 MKs.

Further, said Corfu, Justice Minister Avraham Shari, who last week said that the clemency law was not worthy of being on the statute book, had told the coalition executive before Wednesday's vote that the government had taken no stand.

It would have been better, said Corfu, had Shari told the Knesset that he was expressing his personal opinion.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange



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Herut's favourite foe

THE THREE Herut contenders for Menachem Begin's mantle — Yitzhak Shamir and the twin stars of the State Comptroller's recent report, Ariel Sharon and David Levy — momentarily buried their hatchets at a meeting of the party's mammoth central committee Sunday night. They did so by ganging up on Labour chairman Shimon Peres, trying to bury him along with the idea of an international peace conference which he is promoting.

It was a memorable night for political vituperation. The vice premier and foreign minister was given, even when his name was omitted, a treatment fit not so much for a party opponent as for a traitor to his country.

All three Herut leaders agreed that the international conference is a clear and present danger to Israel's very survival. It spells surrender and suicide. It places a question mark over the nation's right to Jerusalem. It signals readiness to restore the lines of 1967. The people reject the idea of international conference. The order of the day is national unity among the Jews.

Unity among the Jews, Mr. Shamir suggested, could be founded on an offer of direct talks to Jordan. It would start from the premise that the Jordan River is the permanent boundary between the two countries.

Central committee members are reported to have lustily applauded the celebration of party unity among its top trio, on the subject of Shimon Peres and "his" conference. Yet there was no mistaking that, in lambasting the common foe, each of the three was somehow fending for himself and hitting at his rivals for not being true enough to party doctrine. The fact is, each of them has an international conference skeleton rattling in his cupboard.

Messrs. Sharon and Levy were both members of the first Begin cabinet, which was no sooner formed in June 1977 than it formally proclaimed readiness to take part in a resumed Geneva Conference, once it was convened by the U.S. and the Soviet Union on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. That model of an international conference on the Israel-Arab conflict did not include any of the stiff provisos now listed by Mr. Peres.

As for Mr. Shamir, he uttered hardly a murmur of public dissent from what he now describes as Mr. Peres' formula for national suicide, when he himself was foreign minister in the present government. He even had a share, albeit a modest one, in the drafting of the formula. It was when Mr. Shamir succeeded Mr. Peres to the premiership, and the idea of an international conference, instead of being sunk by Arab hostility and American indifference, as he must have been expecting, started to make headway, that the incumbent prime minister placed himself right in the foreign minister's path.

But this purely verbal posture is not nearly enough if Mr. Peres is to be prevented from making the rounds of world capitals, drumming up support for the conference idea. If the foreign minister does not cease and desist, said Mr. Sharon, his own mind rather preoccupied with a party power-play, he must be sacked. Mr. Levy could not agree more.

He too views himself as better qualified than Mr. Shamir to force the Arabs, the Americans and the Soviets to swallow Herut's "peace" recipe.

The premier will not, of course, fire the foreign minister — assuming it is legally possible for him to do so — and bring down the government, without first making sure that this will result not in an early election but in the forming of a narrow Likud-led coalition. The chances for that are slim. But so are the chances for an early election, in which the burning issue of an international conference will in effect be placed before the people.

The ugly farce of a deadlocked "national unity" government is thus likely to be dragged out until the curtain is rung down on it by some fresh religious row — or, preferably, by Mr. Peres finally deciding that the advantages of breaking away far outweigh the benefits of staying in.

A premature portent

ALTHOUGH their arrival had been expected sometime this week, the members of the Soviet consular mission to Israel — the first official mission from Moscow in over 20 years — were almost entirely undetected when they disembarked from the Austrian Airlines plane that brought them here from Vienna. All, or nearly all, eyes at the airport were turned on another passenger arriving on the same flight, former Prisoner of Zion and longtime refusenik Yuli Edelstein.

It would be comforting to see in this more-or-less fortuitous conjunction a portent of a new era in Israeli-Soviet relations. But that would be premature.

The Soviet consular mission need not confine itself strictly to matters of Russian Church property, which was to have been its original brief. But the scope of its authority appears to exclude political matters. The Israeli-Soviet dialogue, nipped in the bud in Helsinki early last year, is now believed set to resume elsewhere within a few weeks, at a higher level; and there is no telling how it will now proceed.

The arrival of the consular mission is nevertheless a sign of Soviet acknowledgment that *glasnost* warrants a change in the Kremlin's stance on Israel, too, while Israel's withdrawal of the original condition of prompt reciprocity — in other words, an exchange of missions — suggests willingness to make haste slowly in that direction.

Progress, however, there must be, and not on the formal level alone. Normalization between Moscow and Jerusalem — yes, Jerusalem, not Tel Aviv — cannot be made dependent on Jerusalem modifying its national policies to suit Moscow's taste. And Israel's minimal demand for the resumption of large-scale Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union will not be met by getting rid, as it were, of a few thousand refuseniks.

Israel for its part must at the same time assimilate the simple fact — which at least half its government so far apparently has not done — that there is a price tag attached to the fulfilment of its own just demands on the Soviet Union.

The Soviets are playing a highly ambitious game with Israel which ill-serves Foreign Minister Peres's political needs and diplomatic ambitions and ill-suits the timetables of would-be Middle East peace-makers. This lack of synchronization could be fatal to the peace process.

The past week's events have highlighted the ambivalence of Soviet diplomacy in the region, the discomfort it is steadily causing Peres and the advocates of an international peace conference as a means of breaking the Middle East logjam.

On the one hand, Sunday saw the arrival of the Soviet consular delegation in Tel Aviv, a move unprecedented since the rupture of relations with Israel by Moscow in 1967. No doubt — as was the Soviet's purpose — the delegation will be accompanied by enormous media coverage, and Mikhail Gorbachev will reappear in the West the benefits of this seeming signal of a "thaw" in Soviet-Israeli relations and a "change" in Soviet attitudes to Israel.

Peres was right yesterday in stressing that he, for one, regards the visit as purely "consular," not "diplomatic." He stonewalled any suggestions that this was a sign of a real thaw in Soviet policy.

Peres knows what he is talking about. On Sunday he received a full report from American officials about the discussions in Geneva last week between Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov. At those meetings, Polyakov strayed not an inch from traditional, hard-line Soviet positions on the Middle East: an international conference in which the great powers will be fully involved in the negotiations; full PLO participation; Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders; and the right of the Palestinians to self-

determination.

Regarding the trappings, Polyakov took his cue from his smiling superior. Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze, rather than from Shevardnadze's grim-faced predecessor, Andrei Gromyko. According to the American officials, Polyakov at least showed a willingness to listen.

But on all matters of substance, Polyakov's statements gave no indication that Gorbachev's Soviet Union is much different, when it comes to Middle East policy, from Chernenko's or Andropov's.

That complicates Peres's peace effort. Between 1984 and 1986, as prime minister, he had promoted the pursuit of an international conference as Israel's policy. Now that pursuit is not Israeli policy, and Israeli participation in such a conference is solidly blocked by Shamir, the Likud and the religious parties.

Shamir has been able fairly convincingly to argue during the past months that Peres is pursuing a will-o'-the-wisp idea, that the conference plan is a non-starter, hardly worth the political aggravation it is causing in Israel. It will never take place because no representative Palestinian delegation will show up and because the Soviets are bent on

By BENNY MORRIS

organizing a conference and achieving a settlement (1967 borders, Palestinian self-determination) that is unacceptable to any Israeli government, even one led by Peres.

Peres had hoped, in the absence of movement towards a conference by the Middle Eastern parties (Israel and the Palestinians) at least to achieve one major diplomatic breakthrough — on the Soviet front. Were the Soviets to agree to Peres's view of the nature of the conference (no great power coercion, agreements to be reached in direct bilateral Israeli-Arab talks) and to Peres's conditions for Soviet participation in the conference (re-establishment of Israeli-Soviet diplomatic relations and the renewal of mass Jewish emigration from Russia), the Labour Party leader could turn to the Israeli public with a major success in his pocket and say: "Only Shamir stands in the way of peace."

And Peres could convincingly add that the conference diplomacy had resulted in renewal of ties with the Soviet Union (and, in short order, its satellites) and in the renewal of mass Jewish emigration — two highly significant developments, were they to come to pass.

Confronted with such successes, Shamir would be hard-pressed to portray his rejectionist position as Israel's best interests. And a moderation of the Soviet positions would no doubt substantially invigorate Washington to increase its pressure on Shamir to give way, or else be branded universally as the major obstacle to Middle East peace.

But Gorbachev has not played ball. So far he has given no concrete sign that he contemplates helping Peres or, for that matter, contributing to the cause of peace in the region.

Ignoring clear signals from Peres, the Soviets during the past months have studiously avoided any public or, apparently, even private moderation of their positions on the nature of the conference. They have avoided "opening the gates" to mass Jewish emigration, while allowing out a handful of troublesome activists, thus brightening their image in the Free World at little real cost. And they have taken no real steps towards renewing diplomatic relations with Israel, a flurry of well-publicized contacts with Israeli officials notwithstanding.

Soviet hard line helps Shamir block Peres peace move

Lesson for Tisha B'Av

To civilize our debates

Tzvee Zahavy

And I recoil when I hear the secularists strike back with equally poisonous rhetoric. They assert that religious life is a throw-back to medievalism. Rabbis use Jewish law to manipulate, and employ the Torah for greedy, selfish purposes. Therefore religious life must be condemned as worthless and counterproductive to society, they claim. Such secular vituperativeness makes me cringe.

EQUALLY APPALLING is the level of savage discourse between American Jewish leaders and Israeli bureaucratic authorities. They say, for example, that Israel is not the promised land for the Jews, but a land of duplicity, run by schemers and second-rate intellectuals. Over such misstatements I truly mourn.

I wince when I hear the nightmarish delusions of Israeli leaders about the bankruptcy of Jewish life in the Diaspora. All American Jews are headed for assimilation and intermarriage, they predict. American Judaism is a superficial religion of remembrance, a museum of things

past. Nothing Judaic of value can come out of the *galut*, they assert.

Are three weeks long enough to weep over such misrepresentations?

MOST DEVASTATING of all is the ferocious debate raging over the fate of the West Bank. I am horrified to hear the suggestion of some that we expel the Arabs of Israel. The very thought is vulgar. Jewish racism after the Holocaust!

But I cannot accept any more easily the rejoinder of those more liberal spokesmen who label as fascists or Nazis all their Jewish opponents on every issue. Socialist rhetoric cannot solve thorny problems by dismissing or degrading the opponents of liberal views.

Some may counter with the argument that this cruel rhetorical struggle between Jewish factions is just a trivial facet of Jewish debate. No matter how bitter or barbed, what real harm can words inflict? There is too much at stake to take chances.

This intensifying clash of rhetoric puts the future of our religion in danger.

This heightening debate jeopardizes our unity as a nation. This escalating vicious verbal brawling threatens the continuity of the State of Israel.

THE TALMUD teaches that the events which led to the destruction of Jerusalem began with a trivial matter of bickering. On account of an argument between Kamtza and Bar Kamtza over a minor issue, Jerusalem was laid waste, Israel was conquered, and the Jews were consigned to exile for nearly 2,000 years.

The petty squabbling between politicians and bureaucrats can escalate to rhetorical clashes, to bitter exchanges, to political vindictiveness, and, God forbid, to violent political division and to the destruction of what we treasure.

Let us ponder this situation for the next three weeks. Let us then work to mitigate the ferocity of our verbal warfare, lest it lead to deep and irreversible divisions, and weaken our people and allow our enemies to exploit our inner weakness.

We are a philosophical people. Let us conduct our debates with intensity, yes, but within the bounds of civility, and with constructive mutual self-respect.

Professor Zahavy, who was ordained at Yeshiva University, is chairman of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern and Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota.

READERS' LETTERS

THE AGE OF GENOCIDE
Washington will present the dialectic of Holocaust and genocide. It will recall not only the places where millions were murdered but also salute the new life built by new Americans who emerged from the ashes. It will present the Jewish Holocaust in the first place. This is the paradigm that has opened our eyes to the meaning of other genocides perpetrated by other criminal regimes. But it will not be — and from its inception never has been — a purely Jewish project controlled by "American Jewish activists."

As in many other civic and cultural areas, Jews have been prominent in America in telling about the Holocaust and teaching its lessons. But they have not been alone: several of our first and foremost Holocaust education programmes were begun by Christian churches.

Professor Avineri forgets that the American situation is different from the Israeli situation, and necessarily has other terms of reference. Worse yet, he fails to understand how different the relations of American Jews, Christians, and other gentiles are from what they were in European Christendom. In sum, he must be faulted for a fundamental conceptual error: he writes of the Holocaust as though the disposition of its remembrance and message were a purely Jewish affair.

Prof. FRANKLIN H. LITELL, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, International Council of Yad Vashem Jerusalem.

WHO IS A JEW?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I would like to inform Nissim Zvill, of the Rural Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency, that he is incorrect, according to Halacha, when he states that the proposed change in the Law of Return would make every Jew who is born a Jew vulnerable to doubts regarding his Jewish identity (Letters — June 25). According to Halacha there is no doubt about the matter if the mother is Jewish.

I do not care how much Israel's economy depends on accepting non-Jews as Jews. Life is hard, and if you want to be Jewish you must convert according to Halacha. If your father is Jewish and your mother is not, then you must convert according to Halacha. That is life! That is the Torah!

I am fed up with catering to people who want everything the easy way, including instant Judaism. If this law is not passed, then it will only confirm how corrupt the government is, that they can be bribed by American money. Is this a Jewish homeland or a Western democracy? You cannot really have both.

RENEE GREENBERG
Tel Aviv (Brooklyn).

PEN FRIENDS
JENNIFER MOORE (31), of 14 Hertford Court, Warwick Road, Canterbury, England, is a secretary who would like to correspond with Israelis between the ages of 30 and 60. She is interested in music, camping and travel.

What's the time?

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